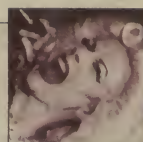


**A life cut short**  
Man seemingly on top of the world dies; friends suspect drugs.  
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**Want to CHAT?**  
New study seeks HIV-poz drug and alcohol users.  
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**Girly-boy makes good**  
John Cameron Mitchell's 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' opens Friday.  
**see Arts section**



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 29 • 19 July 2001

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Rick Gerhart

## Proud to be young

San Francisco's Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center hosted its sixth annual "Young, Loud, and Proud" conference last weekend at Horace Mann Middle School. Keynote speakers at the gathering, produced by and for queer youth, were Jason, left, who identifies as a transgender Asian Pacific Islander and youth advocate; and Kristi Hyde, an intersexed youth who has been an advocate for allowing babies born with ambiguous genitalia to forgo forced surgery and gender assignment. LYRIC Executive Director Brian Cheu said that about 500 young people attended the conference.

## DuPont, SF grants divided among HIV prevention programs

by Katie Szymanski

**M**ore than two years after a \$5 million HIV prevention program through DuPont Pharmaceuticals and the city of San Francisco was announced, some of the money has finally come through and is being put to use, city and company representatives announced last Thursday, July 12.

Although not a cent of the funding had materialized as of late last year, DuPont kicked in \$400,000 of the \$1 million it had promised after the recent surge in HIV infections was announced last summer. The city matched that money to make a total of

\$800,000, which will be dispersed through four different health initiatives designed to combat HIV infection, according to a statement released by both parties.

But for all the city's talk of the need for new prevention methods in the wake of the proclaimed increase in infection rates, this funding program falls short of fulfilling community needs, according to some local advocates. For starters, the largest portion of the money (\$325,000) will go toward the opening of the "Castro Men's Health Initiative," a drop-in STD and HIV testing center whose services address prevention only after someone may be having unprotected sex. Additionally, the Castro neighborhood is predominantly white and already home to existing HIV prevention resources, two facts that fly in the face of the acknowledgment of troubling data about HIV and people of color.

"In one sense the Castro obviously still needs to be addressed when it comes to HIV prevention," said David Wallace, director of development and communications for the Black Coalition on AIDS. "And yet on the other hand the fact that HIV still disproportionately affects black people means the resources need to be shifted to where there's very little to no prevention. They could stop giving money to Castro programs tomorrow, and they'd find ways to get it back. That's not the case with lesser-known agencies."

The DuPont/city proposal does include programs for African Americans, but at funding levels that advocates like Wallace believe are inadequate. The "Chlamydia Elimination Initiative," for instance, is based on alarming facts about teenage girls in the Bayview whose high rate of Chlamydia in-

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## Right pushes constitutional amendment to 'protect' marriage

by Bob Roehr

**S**ocial conservatives formally trotted out their latest stunt to "save" marriage — an amendment to the U.S. Constitution — at a July 12 news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. They tried to wrap it in language of moderation and "letting the people decide," but opponents called it "a nuclear bomb."

The effort is being led by the Alliance for Marriage, ostensibly a diverse coalition of individuals. But behind it are ties to James Dobson's Focus on the Family and other organizations that are very socially conservative. The executive director of the Alliance, Matt Daniels, is formally associated with the Massachusetts Family Institute, which is preoccupied with the homosexual "threat" to marriage.

The amendment is simple enough: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution or the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

It mirrors anti-gay marriage amendments



Bob Roehr

Alliance for Marriage's Matt Daniels

to state constitutions that the right wing has pushed in several states.

Even though the amendment would inject the federal government into an area that has

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## Hard v. near-impossible: Amending U.S. Constitution

by David Fraser

**A**mending the U.S. Constitution is hard to do, and nigh-impossible if you don't have a wide national consensus.

That's the verdict of Associate Dean David Oppenheimer of Golden Gate University's School of Law in San Francisco.

Oppenheimer spoke Monday, July 16 with the *Bay Area Reporter* about the social, political, and legal aspects of the attempt by religious conservatives to enact a federal marriage amendment (see above story). The proposed amendment has not been introduced in Congress.

"This takes me back to 1967," Oppenheimer said, "when the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the anti-miscegenation laws" that barred interracial marriage.

"The case was called *Loving v. Virginia*, and appropriately enough, it was about Mr. and Mrs. Loving, a [mixed-race] couple who had married in Washington, D.C. They moved to Virginia, where the law was on the books, were arrested, convicted, and sentenced to prison."

"It seems to me this is an attempt to go back to laws like those in 1967, to say that it can't be legal under the Constitution for people of the same sex to marry."

Oppenheimer added: "I think this represents the view of a fringe element; no one in mainstream American society could take seriously an amendment to the Constitution barring marriage among adults of the same sex."

In fact, Oppenheimer said, the proposal is so much on the fringe of American social thought that it really doesn't stand a chance.

Overall there have been 27 amendments to the Constitution over two centuries; the first 10 constitute the Bill of Rights.

Since presidents have no role in the amendment process, their signature is not required.

Oppenheimer noted that towering amendments have been few and far between in recent years. Since the Civil War, "the big ones have been the 13th, ending slavery; the 14th, for states to provide equal protection; the 15th, which created male suffrage."

Since then, "there's been the 20th, which created suffrage for women" and amend-

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# Alice's endorsement process sparks cat fight

by David Fraser

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club last week endorsed San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno for the state Assembly despite what a club official said were efforts by outgoing Assemblywoman Carole Migden's office to block the early endorsement of Leno as her replacement.

The vote on Monday, July 9, was 61-4, or 94 percent, to endorse Leno.

The club's chair, Paul Hogan, said he was told that at least one Migden staffer called at least two Alice board members in the days leading up to the endorsement, asking for a copy of the Alice membership list. It was not released.

Initially, Hogan said he had heard Alice members were contacted by Migden herself, but he later withdrew the statement.

Migden, in an admittedly wrenching choice, has backed former Supervisor Harry Britt, her mentor, over Leno, her protégé, in the March 2002 Democratic primary for her 13th District Assembly seat. The assemblywoman is being termed out and is running for the state Board of Equalization.

## Retract, please

In a series of phone calls with the Bay Area Reporter Monday, July 16 that included statements, retractions, and clarifications, Migden's district director Eric Potashner said he had made three or four calls over the weekend before the endorsement meeting, away from the office and on his own phone and time, but no one had a copy of the membership list. He said he talked to Alice members "on my own initiative" and that "nothing came out of" Migden's office.

"This office never made any calls - that's a lie," Potashner said. "[Assemblywoman Migden] didn't make one call, and she never asked me to call. She does feel this is a part of a personal campaign against her; there's been a barrage



Mark Leno, left, and Harry Britt in happier times.

of personal attacks by [political consultant] Robert Barnes and others. It's some sort of retribution, some sort of misogynist thing by Barnes.

"This is Robert Barnes and Paul Hogan versus Migden, instead of Mark versus Harry."

Barnes is widely seen as the club's godfather, having revived it in the 1990s. He is a member, but last year left the board. Barnes told the B.A.R. that he is one of several people running Leno's Assembly campaign. "I am part of a team, it's not just me," Barnes said, adding that other campaign workers are from outside his political consulting business.

Potashner also raised questions about how the Alice Club notified members of the endorsement meeting.

"They sent out postcards, and people were informed the Thursday and Friday before Monday's endorsement meeting. We got calls [at Migden's office] about this process," Potashner said.

Initially Potashner told the B.A.R. that while he believed the assemblywoman had not phoned Alice members about the membership list, Migden had hoped to lobby club members because she felt "they should at least hear from the other candidate [Britt] who is openly gay [as is Leno]." He later asked to retract the statement, which the B.A.R. accepted, but then issued a statement that appeared at odds with what he had

said. In the end he acknowledged his personal efforts, emphasizing that they were on his own time.

## Where's the list?

Hogan, the Alice chair, said he presumed the request for the list was part of an attempt to pressure members into rejecting the Leno endorsement.

He said the early endorsement had been used by the club in the past to aid candidates well in advance of the December formal filing deadline, and that that was how members and the board had wanted to proceed in this case.

"My initial reaction was to wonder why Carole would go to these lengths to stop it," Hogan said. "She knows Mark was getting fairly unanimous support."

Migden's action "offends me because Carole was influential in getting Mark to where he is now," Hogan added. "I wasn't terribly surprised, but I was a little bemused."

Nonetheless he praised Migden, calling her very "respected" for her consistent work on behalf of LGBT persons.

On Monday, Hogan told the B.A.R. that at the paper's request, he had contacted the Alice members involved but that they declined to speak with the press.

"That Carole would take this extraordinary step with Alice ... that's her right, she is a life member, but it seems so unnecessary.

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## Drag race

by Jane Warner

Fronting Badlands bar, 4121 18th Street, July 15, 2:10 a.m.: While sitting in his parked Jetta talking on his cell phone, a man was suddenly startled when another man dressed in women's clothing began hitting the windshield of his car. The man rolled down his window and asked the suspect what he was doing, to which the man screamed, "I need a ride!" When the man refused, the suspect became angry and kicked out the driver's side window, dented the door, and bent back the antenna. The suspect - wearing a gold shiny tube top, light colored pants, and who had long black hair - was last seen running through the Walgreens parking lot.

## Close encounter

Caselli and Danvers streets, July 13, 5:25 p.m.: A man walking on Caselli toward Danvers was approached by another man who told him, "Give me your money,

faggot." The man refused and started to walk away. The robber grabbed the man by the arm, slapped him across the face, and again asked for his money. Fearing for his life, the victim complied and handed over his wallet containing credit cards and \$75.

The suspect - described as an Hispanic male, 38-40 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 150 pounds, with short cropped hair, wearing a long black-sleeved shirt and blue jeans - fled on foot, and responding police were unable to locate him.

## Castro snatch

Chat Cafe, 498 Sanchez, July 15, 9 a.m.: Shortly after the Chat Cafe coffee shop opened, a man walked in and approached the front counter. The clerk had finished hanging up the phone when she noticed she left her purse where the man was standing. The employee reached to pick up the handbag when the man suddenly grabbed it and ran out the door. The suspect, described as African American, 30 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, wearing a tan and red

coat with black pants, was last seen running northbound on Sanchez.

## Little feat

Safeway, 2020 Market, July 13, 12:15 a.m.: A store security officer making a routine check of the men's restroom heard a snoring noise coming from one of the stalls. Upon further investigation he heard the voices of two people and bent down and observed two pairs of legs. Suspecting illegal activity, the guard knocked on the door and told the pair to leave the restroom. The officer then saw two plastic bags containing a white powder drop to the floor inside the stall. The guard opened the door and found two people staring back at him. The teens, ages 14 and 18, were detained until police arrived. Both teenagers were then arrested for narcotics possession and transported to the Youth Guidance Center where their parents were contacted. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

## Crime &amp; Punishment

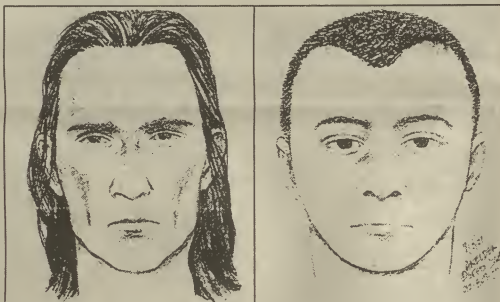
## Police release sketches of robbery suspects

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco police have issued composite sketches of the two suspects involved in the July 7 home invasion robbery on the 200 block of Castro Street.

The suspect with longer hair is described as white or Hispanic, 30-35 years old, 6 feet tall, weighing 200 pounds. The suspect with short hair is described as white or Hispanic, or possibly of Pacific Island or Polynesian descent, 40-45 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 165 pounds.

San Francisco Police Night Investigations Inspector Richard Martin told the Bay Area Reporter this week that although he has strong leads, arrests in the case may hinge on people coming forward with information.



Sketches of home invasion suspects were released by police.

The men allegedly beat two roommates with a baseball bat and tied them up while they ransacked their home. The robbery was thwarted when a third roommate returned

about 4 a.m. He was also hit but managed to run away and call police.

Anyone with information is asked to call Inspector Martin at (415) 553-9183. ▼

## High court refuses to release Rosenkrantz

by Ed Walsh

The California Supreme Court refused to release gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz last week and sent the case back to the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Los Angeles for a hearing.

Last month, a Superior Court judge in Los Angeles ordered Rosenkrantz's immediate release, ruling that Governor Gray Davis had an unlawful blanket policy against parole.

The state appealed to the 2nd District Court of Appeals but the appeals court refused to block the lower court's decision. The state then appealed to the California Supreme Court. On Wednesday, July 11, the high court tossed the case back to the appellate court for a hearing.

In a brief telephone interview with the Bay Area Reporter last Friday, July 13, Rosenkrantz said he gave his lawyers the go-ahead to file a bail motion before Los Angeles County Superior Court

pending an outcome of the appeals court hearing. In the past, the state has vigorously fought any efforts to free Rosenkrantz on bail.

Rosenkrantz, now 34, had just turned 18 in June 1985 when he shot and killed a former schoolmate, Steve Redman, in Calabasas, in Los Angeles County. A week earlier, Redman attacked him at a high school graduation party and later outed him to his father. Rosenkrantz was convicted of second-degree murder and has been eligible for parole since 1996. ▼

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# Friends suspect drugs in gay man's death

by Ed Walsh

Jon Redmon was on top of the world on Friday, June 15. The handsome and well-liked 28-year-old was laid off from his high-tech job in February but he had just accepted an offer for a good-paying job with unlimited advancement opportunities. He was scheduled to start the following Monday. He never made it.

Redmon was found dead by his roommate on Saturday, June 16, after a night of drinking, dancing, and drugs at a popular South of Market nightclub. Although his cause of death is pending toxicology tests, friends say they're convinced he died of a fatal combination of GHB and alcohol.

"To lose him like this has absolutely rocked my world," said Redmon's close friend and former boyfriend, Eric Hall, who first met Redmon six years ago and lived with him up until about a year ago. "The devastation that has been created here has just been incredible."

Hall said although it is very painful for him to speak publicly about Redmon's death, he wanted to do so to prevent what happened to his friend from happening to anyone else.

"His whole life had just been waiting for him and all it was, who knows, a thimble full of something mixed with the wrong thing and now he's dead," said Hall. "This



The late Jon Redmon

whole scene where you go to these establishments and everyone's on drugs is just too much to bear.

"I used to think that the clubs were a good place for people to go but now I think they are just toxic dumps. Something new needs to happen for people to do that doesn't involve drugs and going out. Unfortunately, these clubs have metamorphosed into something that is just about the drugs. They wouldn't exist if it wasn't for drugs. And I think it's too bad. When I was younger, in my 20s, it was abnormal to do drugs," said Hall, 40. "Don't get me wrong, I've done them many times myself but it wasn't like everybody did them and it was a normal thing. Now you're out if you don't do them."

"Ultimately, it was Jon's responsibility for what he did, but his friends, as far as I'm concerned, were useless club kids. I don't con-

sider them his friends. When he just started dropping in the club they just took him to my place and just dumped him," said Hall. "It really just irritates the shit out of me to think that these supposed good friends of his didn't bother to take him home and stay with him. It's just incredible. They did nothing."

Hall lives mostly in the Russian River area now but still owns a home on Folsom Street where Redmon occasionally stayed.

Redmon had attended the Launch dance club venue at the King Street Garage on Friday, June 15. One of the roommates in Hall's Folsom Street home said an acquaintance took Redmon there from the club and put him on Hall's bed late that night. The roommate, who requested his name not be published, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he remembers hearing Redmon snoring loudly around 5 a.m. As he was getting ready to go to work about 10 a.m., he found Redmon dead. Because of the condition of his body, police say Redmon likely died several hours before his roommate found him.

Redmon's death was referred to the San Francisco Police Department's homicide division. Homicide supervisor Mike Johnson told the *B.A.R.* that it's too soon to classify Redmon's death as a suspected drug overdose because they are awaiting toxicology tests

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## Send amendment packing

The Christian conservatives have done it again. Obviously angry that the country is growing more accepting of gays and lesbians and more at ease with passing anti-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation, a group of anti-gay religious leaders and others have a novel idea for "protecting" — as they call it — the so-called institution of marriage. They propose a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between one man and one woman. The proposed amendment also states: "Neither this constitution or the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

At its news conference last week, Alliance for Marriage members bemoaned the state of heterosexual marriage and its high divorce rate. Executive Director Matt Daniels said the amendment would help solve the problems of divorce, abuse, drug use and other issues that affect many American families. We are at a loss as to how an amendment banning gay marriage would help heterosexual marriage. Nor do we understand how such a proposal would help the "pandemic of fatherless families" that is sweeping through the African American community, according to Walter Fauntroy, a Baptist minister who once opposed having a gay speaker address a civil rights march in Washington, D.C.; he said that up to 80 percent of African American children are born out of wedlock.

But what do "fatherless families" and out of wedlock births have to do with same-sex couples seeking equal marriage rights? If anything, according to the alliance's reasoning, gay men should be encouraged to become fathers as they would provide their children with two daddies. Of course, two mommies aren't bad either, and there are many children who for one reason or another are raised in single-parent households. Instead of criticizing these different concepts of family, the alliance should be working to help families cope with the many issues that confront all parents — gay and straight — on a daily basis.

The alliance's amendment proposition is nothing more than a blatant attack on gays

and lesbians, and the sole purpose of last week's announcement seems to be to stir up right wingers. Proponents couldn't even answer the fundamental question of how this amendment would help heterosexual marriage.

We question whether the alliance has the political support necessary to an undertaking as monumental as amending the U.S. Constitution and, interestingly, they didn't say when the measure would be introduced in Congress or by whom.

For all the talk about the proposed amendment, however, we see it having little chance of actually becoming reality. It is extremely difficult to amend the constitution, and any effort requires a broad national consensus as well as the support of most of Congress and 38 state legislatures. The other method of amending the constitution (through a convention of most state legislatures) hasn't been used since 1787.

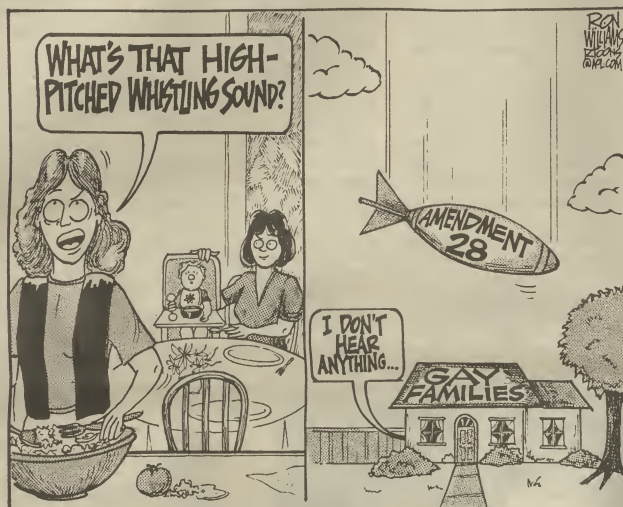
Amending the constitution is not something to be taken lightly nor should it be trivialized by meaningless amendments like the one suggested by the Alliance for Marriage. There are questions about whether such an amendment would even be legal given the equal protection provisions of the 14th Amendment.

Lightning struck twice for gays last week beginning with the revelation that the Bush administration would allow the Salvation Army to discriminate against gays using federal tax dollars in exchange for the charity supporting the president's faith-based initiative.

That was followed by the Alliance for Marriage's news conference on the anti-gay amendment. In the case of the Salvation Army flap, the Bush administration did a hasty retreat. We hope the same thing will happen with the Alliance for Marriage. There's absolutely no reason for this amendment and promoting it only serves to inflame the issue of equal rights for gays. ▼



## Editorial



## Supes' abuse of power

by Gary Robert Goad

In case you missed it, the Board of Supervisors recently spit in the faces of the electorate, overturning the outcome of the November election. They have passed legislation that was previously rejected by an overwhelming majority of voters. Eight of 11 supervisors determined that the defeat of Proposition N should be ignored. Apparently, it's more important to pander to a vocal minority of activists than it is to honor the outcome of an election. Paybacks are still alive and well at City Hall in spite of the anti-Brown, anti-good-ol'-boy mentality that swept these people into office in the first place.

Supervisor Jake McGoldrick created and passed legislation (over the Mayor's veto) that does exactly what Proposition N would have done had voters not rejected it. McGoldrick's legislation effectively ends tenancies-in-common home ownership in San Francisco. To hell with the people! Let them deny it, but in the face of a rapidly changing economic climate, last November's hysteria over housing and displacement no longer matches this summer's reality.

If you want to buy a home now, collectively you can't, so you'll have to be rich or leave town. At least with TICs there was some hope of getting out of the tenant cycle of evictions and uncertainty. Now there is none. If you're a renter of modest or moderate means, you will likely be a renter for life — unless you leave San Francisco. The middle class is being squeezed out.

To fully understand the workings of this board, let's take a look at who it was, and

what the agenda is, of those that worked so hard to get them elected. In other words, who is it this board really answers to? The fanatical Tenants' Union and other such activist groups have fear-mongered and brainwashed renters in San Francisco into believing they are constant prey to greedy speculators and landlords. They placed propositions on the ballot year after year using these tactics — and got them passed. Not happy with the most anti-landlord/pro-tenant rent control laws in the nation, they went for the heart and jugular of city government, the Board of Supervisors, and Mayor Willie Brown respectively. As in past elections with propositions designed to keep renters renting, the Tenants' Union used these tactics to establish a majority on the board favoring its agenda. Once the new board was

sworn in, it was a done deal, thus keeping their own paychecks safe from extinction. (I rubbed your back ... now you rub mine.) The activists' emotionally charged mantra has always favored the elderly, disabled, and poor, labeling them victims of greed and scaring the wits out of anyone who rents. While legislation to help those citizens directly is certainly called for, what this board passed really doesn't help them at all. It is best described as a direct hit on Mayor Brown with the added bonus of decimating the most likely means of home ownership for the middle class, keeping them renters forever. That's all this board is really about (save three of them, that is). I need to know: What good can possibly come from the politics of revenge?

Doesn't that defeat the so-called purpose of their "progressive" agenda? There's nothing progressive about revenge and back door deals with allied activists sharing the common goal to bring down Mayor Brown. It's just politics as usual, only now it's the extremism of activists hell-bent on punishing Brown for his arrogance and defiance since taking office. Voters didn't elect these individuals because they favored one form of extremism over another. We elected them for change and a better San Francisco. So far, there is zero evidence that anything is one iota better.

Instead of subverting the will of the voters by resurrecting rejected legislative propositions, our Board of Supervisors should

be crafting new legislation. Legislation that provides incentives for developers to build more lower and moderate income rental housing and legislation that will create more liberal financial aid with other incentives to first-time buyers. Tenant activists should be supporting these concepts, but I won't hold my breath for that. Such positive legislation could benefit everyone and should be the product of an innovative, progressive, and independent governing body. Isn't this what we are told our Board of Supervisors is? They act more like spoiled misguided children of prosperity revolting against authority out of anger and resentment rather than elected officials with creative minds and innovative ideas solving problems.

In reality, all they've done is abuse their power — and wasn't that exactly what they campaigned against? ▼

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Memo to 'white guppies'

What does David Bach think he's doing [*"Limited seating," July 12*]? He removed a bench from the public sidewalk because he thinks it infringed upon his business and quality of life. What it really means is that he didn't think the right kind of people were using the bench. How is his reasoning different from someone not renting an apartment or offering a job to a gay person? Fuck you, David Bach. You and other white guppies are infringing upon my quality of life in this city.

Paul Gilbert  
San Francisco

## Beyond belief

Perhaps if David Bach and area merchants had spent time trying to get a tenant in the empty building that used to house the Names Project, there wouldn't be a problem keeping the area clean. Of course that isn't as easy as blaming the homeless and others for congregating there.

Since when does the person who stole an item get to determine when it is returned? The arrogance displayed by Mr. Bach is just simply beyond belief. Who does he think he is, Mayor Brown?

Bill Wilson  
San Francisco

## This is not Florida

I find it ironic that Wayne Friday is talking about the uncounted votes in Florida [*"Our Man Friday, July 12*] when right here in San Francisco our voters apparently don't count. The majority of us rejected Proposition N, only to have that replaced by what our supervisors want. We're lucky to have supervisors smarter than we are.

Jon Denning  
San Francisco

## Queer rights group responds

As members of Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism, we would like to thank Peter (Pini) Altman, Robert Daroff, Tom Herz, David Maltz, and Saralie Pennington [*"Saddened and thrilled at Pride," Mainstream, B.A.R., July 5*] for telling the queer community about our contingent in the recent LGBT Pride Parade (something the queer media did not do). Their letter calls us "a fanatical anti-Israel group." QUIT holds the "fanatical" view that people's rights should not be determined by their racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, or gender identities. We hold other "extremist" views, which we happen to share with that left-wing United Nations: that after 53 years, Palestinian refugees have the right to go home, and that Israel must withdraw from territories which it invaded in 1967.

We marched in the LGBT Freedom Day Parade, or Pride, because we are queers, and we belong there. Like other progressive queers, we have struggled for years to get the mainstream human rights movement to acknowledge, and respond to violations of our human rights. Now, Amnesty International has a section which focuses on human rights abuses of queers, and a recent report documented violations in many countries, including the U.S. And just as we demand that queer rights are human rights, so we are responsible to ensure that human rights, all human rights, are included in our fight for queer rights.

The history of human rights abuses goes back to 1947 and before, when a campaign of terror drove Palestinians from their homes. The current intifada started on September 28 of last year, when Ariel Sharon, the former defense minister, brought a thousand armed police to the site of the Al Aqsa mosque. Sharon is widely believed to have been complicit in, or directly responsible for, the massacre of 2,000 Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon in 1982. He is now being sued and investigated for prosecution in Belgium for crimes against humanity. He was elected prime minister in Israel this year.

Since September 28, 2000, Israeli forces have shot and killed over 600 unarmed civilians, demolished over 400 houses, prevented Palestinians from getting to hospitals, isolated villages from their supplies of food and water, and destroyed the civilian infrastructure. Inside Israel police looked on, while mobs beat, and in some cases killed, Palestinian citizens. Just last week, Sharon announced that the Israeli government would continue its policy of assassinating suspected or potential "terrorists." This is a clear violation of human rights — to have the state armed forces go out and kill people who they decide are going to oppose them.

We were very glad to be marching in SF Pride this year, and we got a very warm reception from most of the crowd. Queers in the Bay Area have been active in supporting the rights of Palestinians for over 30 years, and this is not the first time we have carried banners and signs supporting the liberation struggles in the Middle East. We were particularly proud to have marched with our banner this year, when we learned that 250 Palestinian and Israeli queers marched in Tel Aviv, carrying signs reading "No Pride in the Occupation" and "Human Rights for All," in Arabic, Hebrew, and English.

Although we have been participating in Pride for decades, and have seen it go from a community march and be-in to a well-oiled commercial machine, we are still surprised that some people think that there are issues that do not belong at Pride. Queers are everywhere and in every population. Which means that any issue affects us, and every violation of human rights is a violation of our community. Queer liberation can't be achieved in isolation, because queers don't exist in isolation. That is our strength. And when we queerly act in support of the liberation of any of our peoples, that is our Pride. If you are interested in joining QUIT you can call (510) 434-1304, or e-mail us at quit\_palestine@yahoo.com.

Tory Becker, Deeg Gold,  
Kate Raphael, and Tom Reynolds  
Oakland, California

## Selective consciousness

One of your recent letters included this curious claim: "Many [LGBT supporters of Israel] have made tremendous contributions to LGBT liberation, the struggle against AIDS. ... We deeply feel that our support for Israel is profoundly consistent with these contributions." Support of Israel consistent with LGBT liberation? The last time I checked, military occupation and expansionism were not on the queer agenda. Even Israeli Jews, i.e. the progressive ones, are extremely critical of Israel's expansionist policies, its military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and its refusal to recognize its role in creating the Palestinian refugee crisis. Queers should be just as outraged.

Israel continues to violate international law with the support of its best friend, the U.S. For example, Iraq invades Kuwait for six months in 1990 and the U.S. imposes economic sanctions that continue to strangle the Iraqi civilian population. Israel invades Palestinian land in 1967, never leaves, implements apartheid rule over the Palestinians and the U.S. rewards it with a massive financial/military aid package annually. The writers of the letter are either wildly uninformed or in deep denial about the politics of the region.

Finally, the writers include this doozy, "Israel's warm embrace of her transgendered singing star is in sharp contrast to her Arab neighbors' opposition to even including the word 'gay' in the United Nations platform about AIDS." Citing a homophobic policy of Arab governments in order to justify blind support of Israel is absurd. Israel's acceptance of a transgendered person doesn't excuse its appalling human rights record concerning the Palestinians. Should criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinian civilians (some of whom are queer by the way) living under military occupation be mitigated on account of the state policies of Syria or Jordan? To the writers, I would consider throwing around the phrase, "I support Israel" with a great deal more care and reflection.

Steve Filandrinos  
San Francisco

## Year-round Pride

San Francisco is a gay mecca. It is the one city in the world like this. So my question is: Why doesn't San Francisco City Hall have a permanent rainbow flag flying outside?

Gregory Prod  
San Francisco

## No longer sunny?

I spent many happy years living in the Castro, and worked as editor of the *Castro Times* for a while. But reading the *B.A.R.* every week the once-friendly, optimistic, cohesive, and sunny neighborhood now seems unrecognizable. Is it really as seedy, expensive, divisive, unhappy, and downright dangerous as is reported?

Kurt Sipolski  
Palm Desert, California

## IGLHRC responds

We disagree with Mr. Bill Andriette [*"IGLHRC and sexual minorities," Mailstrom, July 12*] on a number of points. The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission fights for the rights of a wide array of sexual minorities and people with HIV/AIDS. We take action against police abuse and extortion of transgender people in Argentina and sex workers in Mexico; we support efforts to depathologize and decriminalize homosexuality in India; we work against police raids of suspected homosexuals in Uganda, Egypt, and Lebanon; we defend the rights of lesbian prisoners in Colombia and of LGBT asylum seekers in detention in the U.S.; we campaign to ensure access to medications for PWAs around the world. We do all this and more.

Here is what we do not do: We do not support organizations that advocate for adults to have sex with children.

In his letter, Mr. Andriette refers to the expulsion

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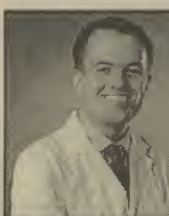
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## Mailstrom

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of a "radical gay group" from the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA). He is referring to the North-American Man-Boy/Love Association (NAMBLA).

The majority of the members of ILGA - IGLHRC included - voted to expel NAMBLA from ILGA in 1994. The vote was indeed prompted by political maneuvers sponsored by Jesse Helms to deny ILGA consultative status at the United Nations. Even today, ILGA's U.N. status remains "suspended" because of entrenched homophobia inside the U.N. and our very own U.S. government.

Yet our position regarding NAMBLA has not changed and is not dependent on U.N. politics. We believe that children and youth have rights, including the right to develop their sexuality in a healthy and supportive environment. And we believe that children also have the right to be free from maltreatment, sexual exploitation, and abuse.

IGLHRC is a non-governmental organization. We have a policy of refusing governmental monies either from the U.S. government or other governments. We zealously guard our ability to criticize governments when human rights violations occur. And most governments understand and respect our impartiality. This may explain why a large number of countries voted for our inclusion in the recent United Nations gathering on HIV/AIDS: Argentina, Romania, the U.S., El Salvador, and India were among the 62 countries that voted for our inclusion, despite the fact they have been the target of our action alerts.

We cover cases of discrimination and persecution in many countries and regions, and yet we cover just the tip of the iceberg. Homophobia, transphobia, and AIDS-phobia are well entrenched in our world. No organization can ever hope to address all the injustices against LGBT people and PWAs. But IGLHRC and its many allies are making a dent in the machinery of hate. When a lesbian is released from prison in Romania or when the national human rights commission in Japan decides to include sexual orientation issues, we know we are making progress. And we know that this is just the beginning.

Interested readers can learn more about our work and about our statement of principles on the rights of the child at <http://www.iglhrc.org>.

Surina Khan, Executive Director  
IGLHRC  
San Francisco

### Sense of humor needed

This is in response to the letter in the June 28 issue that argued against our use of the word "queer" and claimed its dictionary definition made it something we could not be proud of and that "we are gay or homosexual." Well, I've got a Webster's dic in my mouth right now and his book in my lap and it defines "queer" as "different from the usual," "a strange person," and a "homosexual." It defines "gay" as "joyous and lively, merry; bright, brilliant; homosexual."

I don't know about you but to me the first definition seems a lot more on the money, especially when you find that their definition of "strange" is "not previously known, seen; unusual, extraordinary, unfamiliar; peculiar; odd." Hell, I know gay men who don't even aspire to be some of these things.

I mean, let's evolve already and those without sense of humor will just have to stay behind.

Anthony Rhody  
San Francisco

### Let Harry Hay decide

As an older guy I disagree with Mr. Forster's disapproval of the use of the word "queer" [Mailstrom, June 28]. I'm sorry he's upset, but I looked up the word as he suggested and there isn't a single definition in my dictionary except "faint" that I don't identify with. I particularly liked "to get oneself into a disadvantageous situation." I've always hated the word "gay" - I looked it up too: "given to social pleasures or indulgence..." To me, gay means someone who is silly or isn't to be taken seriously. I'd much rather be considered strange. Homosexual is a psychiatric diagnosis, so it won't do.

Frankly, I'm a little put out by people who claim to speak for "the older generation who worked so hard to pave the way," etc., etc. It was a very small part of the older generation who paved the way. Then, as now, 90 percent of people who could pass did so, and it was a small group of people who either couldn't pass or were committed to justice rather than comfort and economic benefit who stuck their necks out and changed things. These people were not afraid of being transgressive, provoking, and strange. It's too bad most of these people that I can think of are dead. This is a roundabout way of saying that perhaps we should let Harry Hay settle the issue. We may have to call ourselves Faeries!

Alan Martinez  
San Francisco

### Somewhat over the rainbow

I am writing in response to the letter entitled "Where's the Pride in the Castro?" [Mailstrom, June 14]. In the good old days, I can remember when June rolled around and how pretty Market Street looked with all the rainbow flags all the way down to the Financial District. I had this sense of gay Pride and wanted everyone to know about it. Since then, rainbow banners have been up year-round on Castro Street, down Market Street past Safeway, and now, there are even rainbow banners on Church Street. Not to mention the biggest rainbow flag in the world at Harvey Milk Plaza. Now when June rolls around, rainbow flags are put up over the rainbow banners. Talk about overkill. It's like keeping a Christmas tree up all year long. When the holiday actually comes around, who cares? It spoils it. The rainbow flags hanging over the rainbow banners look ridiculous. Aesthetically, it's tacky. The flags get tangled up in the banners which looks dumb. I have a great sense of gay Pride but I'm not so insecure that I feel the need to flaunt the rainbow flag everywhere I go.

I understand that the rainbow banners and flags are maintained with private donations. Can't that money be put to good use in the neighborhood, like helping to clean up the Castro? There are drunks passed out on the sidewalk, or urinating in full view of the public. There are also a lot of druggies begging for spare change for their next fix who are trashing the sidewalks. With this in our neighborhood, who can have a sense of gay Pride? I am ashamed to have visitors come here and see all this with nothing being done about it. Then someone writes a letter complaining that store owners won't put up rainbow flags in front of their establishments. Shouldn't we get our priorities straight? No pun intended.

Lyle Cassard  
San Francisco

### 'Porn sale' a success

The second annual "Porn sale" was held last month. Thanks to all the people who made donations (with a special thanks to the people at Mr. S Leather), and thanks to all the people who came and bought items. Thanks also to the B.A.R.'s Mark Mardon for including information about the sale in the Out & About section.

The sale was to benefit the G 40-Plus Club, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization for mature men over the age of 21. As there were no expenses, the club will receive all monies from the sale - \$1,200. In addition, the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California received 43 items (videos, books, scrap books, magazines, calendars, puzzles, etc.)

With this year's success, next year's sale is planned for Saturday, June 15, 2002. Donations of any type of porn - books, calendars, cards, magazines, puzzles, posters, videos, etc. - will be accepted now or for any time. Call (415) 648-8678 to arrange a pickup or more information about the third annual Porn sale or the G 40-Plus Club.

Arthur Hurwith, Outreach Chair  
G 40-Plus Club  
San Francisco

### Frameline's attitude

I commend Roberto Friedman on his criticism of Frameline's attitude about attendance to the film festival in the July 5 Out There column.

However, this situation is not new. On more than one occasion I was at the head of the regular ticket-holder's line only to find that once inside, seats were a rarity. And that was several years ago.

Frameline will not clear the Castro Theatre after each showing so the groundlings get zip. I've basically stopped going and paying the inflated prices.

I've attended film festivals in Sydney, both the gay and the conventional, and people there are by far more accommodating.

Another thought: perhaps films with gay/lesbian material have become mainstream and there will be little need for the film festival any longer. Where will Frameline be then?

Colin Thurlow  
San Francisco

### Made him sick

Michael Bailey's letter [Mailstrom, July 5] regarding the interview with Luther Vandross made me sick.

What makes some people think they have a "right" to know intimate details about a total stranger's life, just because that stranger is a celebrity? How would Mr. Bailey react if a stranger strode up to him asking questions about his private life?

I couldn't care less what Vandross, [Michael] Stipe, [Melissa] Etheridge, and others do privately. I enjoy their talents. Besides, my private life is interesting enough; I don't need to be curious about others' lives. I guess this isn't the case with Mr. Bailey.

Let others have and enjoy their privacy, Mr. Bailey. You have yours.

Larry Reid  
Oakland, California



# Term limits reaches its limits

by Wayne Friday

It has been nearly a dozen years since California voters approved term limits for state legislators; most feel it is probably time to eliminate the limits put on state legislators back in 1990. Currently legislators are limited to three two-year terms in the Assembly and two four-year terms in the Senate. Next year, both San Francisco Assembly members, **Carole Migden** and **Kevin Shelley**, will be forced from office due to term limits, and **John Burton**, the city's lone state senator, must leave two years later. While both Shelley and Migden will seek other offices — Shelley is running for secretary of state and Migden is running for a Board of Equalization seat — both have served the city well in the Assembly and are prime examples as to why term limits are a bad idea.

In addition to limiting terms of state legislators, California voters were among voters in 13 states to approve term limits for members of Congress in 1992, although the U.S. Supreme Court eventually struck down term limits for House members in all states. Though the movement for term limits long ago lost political steam, eight of the nation's 10 largest cities, 38 governorships and 19 state legislatures now limit how long elected officials can serve.

There are numerous reasons why term limits in California should be done away with; the state's current energy crisis is one of them, though both Migden and Shelley were among those who voted for deregulation of energy prices back in 1996. Grappling with the state energy crisis has exposed the lack of experience of some legislators, and as political analyst **Sherry Jeffe**, a senior scholar at the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at the University of Southern California recently put it, "there is no institutional memory and it takes a long time to act on policy as complex as energy."

While some political analysts claim that the state voters are not yet of the mind to eliminate term limits altogether, there is now a move to at least loosen them, and there is currently serious talk of changing the current limitations to allow lawmakers to serve up to 12 years — three four-year terms in the Senate and six two-year terms in the Assembly. To be sure, some well-entrenched politicians would try to make a lifetime career out of serving (**Willie Brown** spent 30 years in the Assembly) but the basic concept of term limits has proven to be an ill-conceived idea and it is now time for California to do away with the practice.

## San Francisco a 'cesspool'?

You couldn't read **Rob Morse's** recent column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* ("The cesspool that is the streets of San Francisco") without agreeing with most of it. I mean, does anyone care about the deteriorating streets of this town? The stretch of Market Street from Church to the

Embarcadero has become a battle zone with tourists avoiding the area like the plague (one of the city's most prominent movers and shakers recently told me the area reminded him of Beirut). You have to constantly step over sleeping street people and drunks on Market, as Morse puts it, "urinating and defecating on the sidewalk are now acceptable behavior;" residents and tourists alike regularly cross the streets to avoid the mentally ill that are everywhere, threatening all who come close; panhandlers now outnumber shoppers; beggars with cardboard signs are at nearly every stop light; and the so-called "quality-of-life"

crimes go totally ignored because, as Morse so aptly put it, "some members of the Board of Supervisors and District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**, who now wants to be mayor, think minor crimes and craziness ought to be ignored by law enforcement."

City cops tell me they know only too well that when they do cite those who are openly selling or using drugs on the streets, using the doorways for toilets, or hassling ordinary citizens, that the district attorney's office won't prosecute, so why bother? Morse compares San Francisco and the ugliness of its streets to what a safe, clean place New York City has become. One doesn't have to agree with the politics of **Rudy Giuliani** to agree that if the guy can clean up the streets of the nation's largest city, something can surely be done here. Morse is right when he says "go there [NYC] and check out the sidewalks and you will swear you're in the San Francisco of 25 years ago."

I'm certain of one thing — the current members of the Board of Supervisors here (with a possible exception or two) could care less about the conditions of our streets, what tax-paying residents or tourists have to constantly put up with, and God forbid we do anything about the ever-growing homeless (they're sacred here, you know). But the person who wants to be our next mayor — listening **Mr. Tom Ammiano**? **Mr. Gavin Newsom**? **Mr. John Burton**? (no, not Burton, he's the biggest bleeding heart of them all) — had better soon take heed and get the message: everyone is fed up. Get a clue you mayoral wannabes, read Morse's July 16 column one more time and take some of it to heart. As for Hallinan for mayor, God help us all.

## Politics and people

Like so many others, Assemblyman **Lou Papan** (D-Millbrae) will be termed out of his 19th Assembly seat in San Mateo County next year and is reportedly already pushing his daughter, **Gina Papan**, for the seat; San Mateo County Supe **Mike Nevin**, a popular former Daly City mayor, however, is the one to beat for the Demo nomination.

Word has it that **Michela Alioto**, who lost a close race for Congress in 1996 and who lost to Secretary of State **Bill Jones** by less than 75,000 votes in 1998, will likely pull out of her current race

for secretary of state and file for that Board of Equalization seat (1st District) that **Carole Migden** has filed for; **Alioto** has excellent name ID and should be a strong candidate in the March 2002 Demo primary.

Think that Supervisor **Mark Leno's** race for the 13th Assembly seat is off to a good start? Leno won the **Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club** endorsement last week with a whopping 94 percent of the votes cast; yes, Leno has been a good supe and would make a great legislator (any questions where I stand on that race?).

Meanwhile, those close to the City Hall/Hall of Justice political scene are telling me that popular deputy City Attorney **Kamala Harris** is all but a sure thing to run for district attorney next time around.

Washington insiders say that the killing of the campaign finance reform legislation by the House GOP leadership, with the approval of the Bush White House, is only one more reason that Senator **John McCain** (R-Arizona), despite his current denials, will eventually run for the presidency in 2004 as an independent.

Also in D.C., it is not a secret that the Bush White House was deep in secret negotiations with the Salvation Army and it would have never been revealed except for the internal memo that unintentionally wound up in the hands of a *Washington Post* reporter. **Karl Rove**, Bush's top adviser, was the Salvation Army's first contact in its effort to win approval of a regulation allowing it and other religious charities to practice anti-gay workplace bias. The memo obtained by the *Post* clearly said the White House had made a "firm commitment" to issue a regulation change protecting religious charities from state and local efforts to prevent discrimination against gays in hiring and benefits. To secure this agreement, the Salvation Army proposed to spend nearly \$1 million on lobbyists and to support Bush's "faith-based initiative," which would increase federal funding of religious charities like the Salvation Army. The White House now, of course, denies promising the Salvation Army anything, and the deal was quickly dropped after news of the proposed regulation was published by the *Post*. But **Don Eberly**, deputy director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, had given the Salvation Army an implicit understanding (according to their own memo) that the Bush administration would indeed make the change.

Not only is Representative **Gary Condit's** (D-Ceres) political career toast due to his lies, cover-up, and an extramarital sex life that makes **Bill Clinton** look like an amateur, but Condit's troubles have likely also ended (or at least delayed) a once-promising political career for his son, **Chad Condit**, who was reportedly preparing a run for the Modesto-area Assembly seat his father once held. Incidentally, the sex antics of Gary Condit during the time he served in Sacramento were so well known around the capital city that he was often derisively referred to as "Gary Condom."

next page ►



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# Are gay men ignoring the role of feminism?

by Paula Martinac

Here's a pronouncement I wish I never had to hear again from any gay man: "Lesbian-feminists have ruined the gay movement." This was the crux of a recent lecture, provocatively titled "The Emasculation of Gay Politics," that gay journalist Andrew Sullivan gave in New York. Statements that Sullivan made and that I've heard different versions of from other gay men suggests that they are willful ignoring the important role feminism could play in their lives.

At this moment, Sullivan is the loudest proponent of this "lesbians have taken over" view. But in fact, feminist-bashing has been a popular sport of the gay right for years. In the early 1990s, gay writer Stephen H. Miller was penning anti-feminist tirades in *Christopher Street* magazine with headlines like "Who Stole the Gay Movement?"

Feminism, according to these gay writers, has infused our movement with a politics of victimization. As a result, the gay movement has become more about hating the people who oppose us than about building a strong, unified gay community. Worse yet, because feminists direct our movement, gay men don't feel free to connect with their true, core masculinity; whenever they try to, harpy lesbians jump in to berate them as sexist. Gay men are, in effect, being pussy-whipped.

Ironically, this kind of thinking suggests that gay men are victims, the helpless pawns of pushy dykes. Sullivan actually proposes that if lesbians weren't running most of the national gay organizations and alienating their gay brothers with incessant demands of political correctness, more gay men would abandon their beach chairs on Fire Island and get actively involved in community politics. Curiously, Sullivan neglects to say what prevented so many beach boys from getting involved in gay politics when there were almost no large community organizations for lesbians to ruthlessly grab control of—that is, before AIDS came along.

Of course, throughout history, there have been men who've used



some version of the "women are to blame" argument. It's a long and cherished tradition to point to women as the cause of just about everything undesirable—like homosexuality and male juvenile delinquency—right on back to the biblical "Fall of Man."

But it's disheartening to see gay men upholding that tradition. And it's not exclusively the gay right taking part. More subtle

forms of feminist-bashing have trickled out of the gay

center and gay left, too. Sullivan hasn't been the only gay man to raise a skeptical eyebrow and wonder loudly, "How could the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force hire seven female executive directors in a row? Didn't any men apply for the job?"

At the root of all the complaints about lesbian-feminism is, I think, the misperception that feminism has no relevance for gay men. In fact, the connection between feminism and gay men is profound.

In his talk, Sullivan spoke of the "deep wound" that many gay men carry from childhood—being taunted because they're not "real men." Yet he failed to go a step further and recognize that, in the eyes of many straight men, what being a "real man" signifies is being higher up the social scale than women. As Suzanne Pharr first theorized in the late 1980s, homophobia pretty much owes its existence to sexism.

Gay men who've been able to draw that vital connection have seen it in their interest to support feminists and join in coalition with them. But Sullivan suggests

that gay men start learning from straight men instead. We need, he says, a "more masculine gay politics," one that is "less passive and defensive" (read: "feminine"). In cruder terms, let's put those broads back in their place and start doing guy stuff.

There's a persuasive book called *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*, written by Michael Kimmel, a very smart and well-known sociologist who's not hesitant to make connections. Kimmel's the kind of straight man I wish Sullivan would bond with, but I doubt if he's someone Sullivan has in mind for guy-to-guy talks.

Through a historical study of masculinity in this country since the 18th century, Kimmel shows that prevailing ideas about what makes a "real man" have often been about "the fear of others dominating us, having power or control over us." By contrast, womanhood, femininity and effeminacy comprise "a negative pole against which men define themselves."

How great it would be, Kimmel suggests, if men didn't have to live up to a constricting idea of manhood. What a different society this could be, better for everyone, male and female, straight and gay.

That's the hope feminism has been holding out for years. Instead of seeing feminists as the spoilers of the gay movement, then, I wish more gay men would recognize that feminism is ultimately on their side. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

## Our Man Friday

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Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante's** GOP opponent in the 2002 race will be state Senator **Bruce McPherson**, a moderate Republican from Santa Cruz who consistently wins re-election from a heavily Democratic district.

Anyone who still has any questions as to how **Jeb Bush** and Florida Secretary of State **Katherine Harris** grabbed their state's electoral votes for Dubya should read the current exhaustive investigative report that appeared Sunday in the *New York Times*.

Meanwhile, one of my favorites, actor **Robert Redford**, a lifelong environmental champion, is getting on Dubya's case again.

Redford: "Bush doesn't have a clue about environment; he's a terrible ignoramus." As for Bush's advisers, "they are blind and deaf to the changes of the last 40 years," Redford says. So there.

And just to be on the safe side, Missouri Governor **Bob Holden** (D) last week signed into law a bill restoring that state's ban on same-sex marriages; Vermont is still the only state that gives same-sex couples the rights of married heterosexual couples.

And in Anchorage, Alaska, a federal judge last week ordered the city to reinstall a gay Pride exhibit at the main library. Anchorage Mayor **George Wuerch** had ordered the exhibit removed last month calling it "promotional" but U.S. District Judge **James Singleton** ruled that it be rein-

stated after the American Civil Liberties Union sued, citing free speech.

And, in Massachusetts, public schools are covering topics about gays and lesbians more often, according to the *Boston Globe*; proponents say the lessons promote tolerance, opponents say they spread propaganda.

Finally a note to our esteemed legislators: New York has become the first state in the nation to tell cell phone drivers to use a headset or face a fine, and it is time California followed suit. Some 40 states are currently pondering such laws, but as of July 1 New York is still the only state to ban the use of hand-held cell phones by drivers. California should be next.

And how was your week? ▼



# Who was Marlon Riggs?

by Rawley Grau

July 16, 1991 (10 years ago this week): Marlon Riggs's documentary *Tongues Untied* debuts on PBS, though many local stations refuse to air it.

One of the leading documentary filmmakers to emerge in the late 1980s, Marlon Riggs dissected issues of racism and homophobia in a number of groundbreaking films, including *Tongues Untied*, a deeply personal and poetic exploration of what it means to be a black gay man in America. Almost inevitably, the film became a major battlefield in the "culture wars" of the early 1990s.

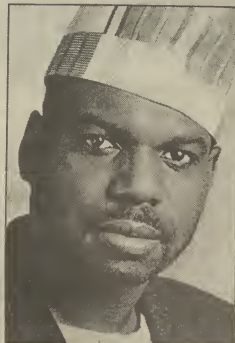
Born in 1957, Riggs was the son of a career Army officer. During his childhood, the family moved from Texas to Georgia to Germany. Though times could be hard — especially in Georgia at the height of the civil rights movement — the Riggses were a loving family and never wavered in their support for their son.

In 1974, Riggs received a full scholarship to Harvard University. There, for the first time, he studied African American history, and his eyes were opened. He decided to go into documentary filmmaking, he later explained, because he wanted to share what he was learning with as many people as possible.

After graduating from Harvard, he entered the master's program in filmmaking at the University of California at Berkeley. Although he had always been aware of his homosexuality, it wasn't until he moved to Berkeley that he came to terms with being gay. In 1979, he became roommates with a white gay man named Jack Vincent, and soon they became lovers. It would prove to be an enduring relationship.

Riggs completed his degree in 1982 and started working on his first feature-length documentary, *Ethnic Notions*, an examination of racist stereotypes in popular culture. The 1987 film won numerous awards, including an Emmy, and established Riggs as major documentarian. Soon, he was invited to join the faculty of the School of Journalism at Berkeley.

Around this time, Riggs became interested in making a short film about black gay men. He had been reading intently the poetry of Essex Hemphill, among others, and had become involved with the



The late Marlon Riggs

Oakland group Black Gay Men United. But in December 1988, while visiting his parents in Germany, Riggs suffered kidney failure and almost died. Hospital tests showed he had AIDS.

He pulled through this first bout with the disease, but the concept for the film — and his whole documentary method — was radically altered. "I found that the story would be my life," he later recalled. "I never thought of putting myself before the camera; it was really liberating."

In *Tongues Untied*, Riggs interweaves his own experiences with those of others, using poetry, music, and provocative imagery to create an intense yet lyrical portrayal of what it's like to be a gay African American man. Candidly addressing both racism within the gay community and homophobia among African Americans, the film asserted that "black men loving black men is a revolutionary act." (Some black gays would later call on Riggs to explain why he had a white lover.)

Completed in 1989, the hour-long documentary won a number of prestigious awards and was slated to air on the PBS series P.O.V. But religious right groups mounted a fervent campaign against televising the film, citing its explicit sexual content, including graphic language and (very brief) "full-frontal nudity." Although PBS still aired *Tongues Untied* in July 1991, 18 network affiliates refused to broadcast the

film, while others scheduled it for the wee hours.

Right-wing politicians, who had launched a war on immorality in the media, denounced *Tongues Untied* as yet another misuse of public funds (Riggs had received a \$5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts) and another reason to shut down the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. "What the hell is going on when the taxpayers are required to fund such garbage as that?" thundered Jesse Helms from the Senate floor. Meanwhile, Republican presidential challenger Patrick Buchanan used racy clips from *Tongues Untied* in campaign ads to illustrate how the (first) Bush administration had "invested our tax dollars in blasphemy and pornography art."

Riggs continued to explore the black gay experience in three short films: *Affirmations* (1990), *Anthem* (1991), and *No Regrets* (*Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien*) (1992) — this last dealing with AIDS among African Americans. He also continued his investigation of black images in popular culture with the feature-length documentary *Color Adjustment* (1991), which told the history of the depiction of African Americans on television, from *Amos 'n' Andy* to *The Cosby Show*.

In 1992, Riggs began work on *Black Is ... Black Ain't*, taking up the thorny question of what constitutes African American identity. But Riggs's health was deteriorating rapidly, and in November 1993 he entered the hospital for a six-month stay. Still, he poured whatever energy he had into making the film.

Riggs died at home April 5, 1994, surrounded by his family and his partner, Jack Vincent. *Black Is ... Black Ain't* was completed by co-director Christiane Badgley, who incorporated scenes of Riggs speaking from his hospital bed. Much more than just a study of black identity, the film stands as a moving testament of Riggs's own unflinching search for meaning — despite the hostile forces of prejudice and disease. ▼

**Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com.**

## Jon Redmon

◀ page 5

which are expected by the end of this month. Johnson said police found a small bag containing a white powder in Redmon's sock and it's also being analyzed.

San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens told the B.A.R. that although a drug overdose is a strong possibility, determination of Redmon's death cannot be made until the toxicology tests are back.

Stephens said Redmon had a history using so-called club drugs including methamphetamines, GHB, and ecstasy. Hall said that although he did a good job of hiding his drug use, Redmon seemed to drift more to drugs since he lost his job last February. Hall said he tried without success to get Redmon help.

"I fought very hard to get him in rehab and he just wouldn't do it and none of his friends or family would take it seriously," said Hall.

Hall said Redmon's circle of friends that he clubbed with re-

main in denial.

Hall said he wouldn't let Redmon live in his Folsom Street home regularly because he was concerned about enabling his drug use but he didn't have the heart to take the house keys away from him. He noted that although Redmon "couch-surfed," staying with various friends, he let him store his belongings in his home.

Hall said that ironically, with his new job, Redmon appeared to be on the verge of turning away from drugs when he died.

"My heart is so fucking broken, I can't tell you," said Hall, breaking down in tears. "I had to call his parents to tell them he was dead. It was so awful. I loved him so much."

"Once he got infected with this club thing, it just got awful. His friends were just the nicest kids, 22, 23, when I first met them and once they started doing this club thing every weekend, they just turned into assholes. It was awful to just watch them go down."

"Jon clearly was having a problem coping with things and his friends did nothing that friends should do." ▼

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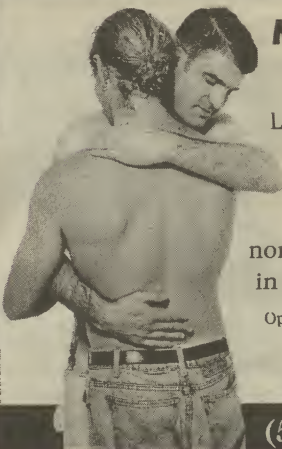
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# CHAT study seeks HIV+ drug and alcohol users

by David Fraser

**P**erhaps it's time for a little CHAT?

People on HIV medications who use alcohol and/or recreational drugs are being recruited for an ongoing study designed to help them stick to their regimens.

You may have seen recruiting ads at bus shelters in the Castro, with a green butterfly held in a palm.

Called CHAT, for Challenges in HIV/AIDS Treatment, the study is designed in part to help people find ways to manage their lives and their HIV medications. Around 250 people are now participating in CHAT at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. Another 250 are needed by next March.

There are three main criteria for the initial screening, according to CAPS' Michael Crosby, Ph.D., MPH, the principal investigator. Participants must:

- 1) currently be using alcohol and/or recreational drugs from ecstasy to heroin;
- 2) have a detectable viral load;
- 3) currently be on HIV medication.

The study is open to Bay Area residents, though it primarily targets San Franciscans because of the need for regular visits over a



CAPS researcher Michael Crosby

year to the CAPS offices near the Embarcadero.

Crosby, trained as a clinical psychologist, began AIDS work in 1989 with the AIDS Health Project; at CAPS, he researches high-risk groups including substance-using gay men. His co-investigator, Maria Ekstrand, Ph.D., also with UCSF, has developed peer-led prevention programs for junior high students in Oakland, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

**Major problem areas**

In preparing the study, Crosby told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "we came up with six major areas for substance-using men and women" that can make it hard to

keep to a pharmaceutical regimen. These are: the medicines' side effects; a chaotic lifestyle; poor stress management; inadequate social support; poor interaction with health care providers; and struggles to remove a host of other barriers.

CHAT is testing whether individually tailored interventions can help people manage their meds. A recent study by Dr. David Bangsberg and colleagues at UCSF found that the more adherent people are to their HIV medication regimens (highly active antiretroviral therapy, or HAART), the slower they progress to AIDS. Bangsberg is consulting on CHAT.

People selected for the study will be split randomly into an intervention or a control group. The latter won't get the intervention, which consists in part of six individual counseling sessions.

There's a year-long commitment required. Both groups will be asked to return every four months for data collection about health and behavior, plus blood will be drawn.

People in the intervention group will have to visit CAPS' offices, near the Embarcadero, for weekly counseling sessions by a specialist in HIV medication adherence. There will be a total of six sessions over two months.

"The beauty of this intervention," said Crosby, "is that people

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Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

**VIRACEPT®**  
nelfinavir mesylate  
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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## VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

### Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (Vi-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nei-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human  
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

**Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

**VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs** such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies:** If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)  
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)  
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglut®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others  
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)  
Halcion® (triazolam)  
Versed® (midazolam)  
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)  
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®  
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

**Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:** Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

**A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:**

Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

#### Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)  
EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)  
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)  
Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

#### If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

#### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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## Pro-marriage

◀ page 1

heretofore been an exclusively state matter, Daniels claimed, "The traditional autonomy of state legislatures on family law matters is preserved by the text of the amendment."

He claimed they were protecting the American people from activist courts that are "distorting" existing law in order to promote a gay marriage agenda. By passing this amendment they would return power to the people to decide this issue.

"Our nation cannot go forward unless our laws send a positive message to children about marriage, family, and their future," said Daniels. The amendment was part of that message, he said, explaining that it would help to solve the problems of divorce, abuse, drug use and others that wrack American families.

Walter Fauntroy, a Baptist minister and former congressional representative for the District of Columbia, said that the worst thing besetting people of African descent throughout the world is "the pandemic of fatherless families that is sweeping our nation today."

He said that up to 80 percent of African American children are born out of wedlock. "If we don't do something about it, we will soon be back to slavery" which was "based upon the destruction of the nuclear family."

Fauntroy called marriage "an institution which defines sexual activity as having a dual purpose, procreation and recreation, and not recreation alone." Presumably he would deny marriage to all post-menopausal women as there no longer is the possibility of procreation.

Fauntroy claimed, "I am by no means abandoning my lifelong commitment to protecting the civil rights of all citizens, gay and straight, and of every race, creed, and color on this planet." He said that gays could "enter into binding contracts. But that right does not extend to the right to redefine the institution of marriage for the purpose of legalizing a lifestyle that one has chosen." It smacked of separate and unequal treatment under the law.

In 1983, politician Fauntroy opposed letting a gay person speak at an anniversary celebration of the 1963 civil rights March on Washington. He equated gay rights with "penguin rights."

Alliance members were not willing to talk about when the amendment might be introduced in Congress, or by whom. And despite all of the talk, no one seemed

to be able to answer a basic question from reporters: How would this amendment help heterosexual marriages? Perhaps that is why the event got so little ink.

As CBS Radio commentator Dave Ross said, the amendment seems to come down to, "We don't care who you marry or how long it lasts, so long as the sexes are opposite."

### Dueling views

The Human Rights Campaign organized a news conference across the lobby of the press club to respond to the earlier gathering. Spokesman David Smith said the alliance "is intending to write out gay and lesbian families from the U.S. Constitution."

Donna Payne, a HRC field organizer, acknowledged the problems facing American families. "What is needed is solutions, not scapegoats," she said. "They mistakenly think that 'pro-family' is a synonym for anti-gay." She said the amendment "would create a constitutionally mandated second class of American citizens," and urged a celebration of families in all of their diversity.

"I just don't understand the reason for all of the sound and fury," said Elder Michael Van Zant of the Faith Temple Evangelical Church. "It is obvious that these threats to heterosexual marriage and family are not homosexual unions but rather the conduct and behavior of heterosexuals in and out of their heterosexual unions."

"As people of faith, we actively oppose the manipulation of religion to promote inequality and exclusion," said Leslie Watson, interim director of Equal Partners in Faith. She evoked the language of the Declaration of Independence that calls for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for all Americans. She said that each religion should be free to decide what constitutes marriage within their own tradition.

"Most of the anti-gay attacks in Congress are legal equivalents of sticks and stones," said Christopher Anders, legal counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. "This amendment is the legal equivalent of a nuclear bomb. It will wipe every single line protecting gay and lesbian families and other unmarried couples."

He said it would "invalidate all state and local domestic partnership laws," even in those states that have passed a gay civil rights bill. It would prohibit state and local governments from offering domestic partner benefits to employees, and "undermine" adoption and guardianship laws, including hospital visitation and decision-making.

Anders turned to the vice pres-

idential debate last fall when Dick Cheney said, "People should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to enter into." Cheney continued by noting that marriage is a state issue where states may come to "different conclusions ... I don't think that there should necessarily be a federal policy in this area ... I think we ought to do everything we can to tolerate and accommodate whatever kind of relationships people want to enter into."

The alliance claimed that the amendment would not affect the gay civil unions enacted in Vermont or domestic partner laws. "I don't know whether that is a purposeful misstatement or they don't understand the language that they putting forward," said Anders, but "the legal incidents of marriage" includes benefits that have been conferred through domestic partnership and other laws.

Anders called the amendment "a more extreme measure than the Defense of Marriage Act," which sailed through Congress in 1996. He is afraid that members of Congress may sign on before they realize how extreme the measure is, and then it would become more difficult to change their minds.

Passage would "deprive states of having that traditional role" of being a laboratory for family law and civil rights issues, he said. "Every single federal civil rights law has always allowed the states to develop stronger civil rights laws. But this takes states out of the picture entirely."

HRC's Smith said they have not seen "any evidence that this is a viable effort" in Congress, though they will continue to monitor things closely. ▼

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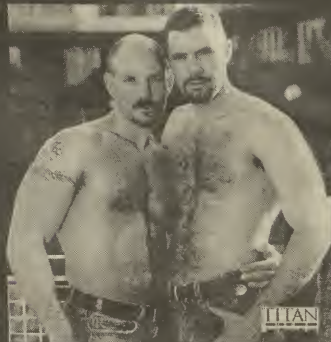
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Gilead Sciences has opened an Expanded Access Program for TENOFVIR DF, an investigational reverse transcriptase inhibitor, dosed as a single tablet once daily. TENOFVIR DF is being evaluated in combination with other agents in clinical studies for the treatment of HIV.

### ENTRY CRITERIA

The TENOFVIR DF Expanded Access Program is now available for adult patients who have failed HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy), have limited treatment options, and in the opinion of the treating physician, require TENOFVIR DF to construct a viable combination of antiretroviral agents.

For more information on how to enroll, please contact your physician, your local AIDS community-based organization, or the district public health office. If your physician would like to participate in the program, he/she can call 1-800-445-3235 or visit the Gilead Sciences website at [www.gilead.com](http://www.gilead.com).

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# New report: Drug companies and where the profits go

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Families USA is a nonprofit foundation that studies drug companies and the price of pharmaceutical drugs. The group issued a report last week demonstrating that the lion's share of drug company profits are being spent on advertising and promotion, not on research and development of new drugs. The report also listed the top five executive salaries—starting at \$40 million per year plus stock options—calling the salaries “off the charts.”

The report sent shock waves through the drug manufacturing sector and caused much consternation for the industry's

spokesgroup, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). PhRMA had previously stated that drug prices were high because the profits were needed to develop new drugs and find cures for the dying. While the drug companies quickly issued rebuttals and denials to Families USA's findings, PhRMA was hard-pressed to prove otherwise. The numbers Families USA used in its report were gleaned from official drug company accounting documents submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In the AIDS community, consumers are used to paying ridiculously high prices for AIDS medications. For years it was believed that high prices were necessary so that new HIV drugs could one day

be developed. In reality the profits taken from PWAs and their insurance companies have gone to pay for huge advertising campaigns and absurdly high executive salaries. At the same time, few new families of drugs are in development, with some companies opting out of the HIV-drug market altogether. While many PWAs have been very thankful and supportive of drug companies for stepping in and finding ways to extend life, some PWAs have spoken with say they are tired of the all-pervasive saturation advertising in the HIV and gay communities.

Jennifer Laudano, Families USA's spokeswoman, said that the drug company mantra—high prices will mean more research—is really nothing more than a veiled threat to consumers to either pay the prices or suffer the diseases. “It [the drug companies' response] is really a scare tactic,” she said. “It's you need us, and we are going to charge whatever, or we will stop trying to save your life.” Laudano and her group have studied drug company pricing and the effect on seniors for several years now. She noted that the HIV community was also feeling the pain and burden of high drug prices.

Indeed, the drug manufacturers are once again relying on PhRMA to defend their position. In a statement by Jackie Cottrell, spokeswoman for PhRMA, regarding the Families USA report, the group returned to its usual position and stated: “The system works for patients. Americans, including the staff of Families USA, can be sure that whatever disease they or a member of the family has or will get, the pharmaceutical industry is working on a cure. Pray the companies always will be successful.” Or in other words, pray that we do not stop producing what you and your family need to survive.

Laudano pointed out that drug company spending to protect industry interests now permeates society at several levels. The industry has mobilized a virtual army of employees and contracted with individuals who promote products through phony health

The Five Highest-Paid Drug Company Executives 2000 Annual Compensation Exclusive of Unexercised Stock Options		
Executive	Company	Compensation
William C. Steere, Jr. Chairman	Pfizer Inc.	\$40,191,845
John R. Stafford Chairman and CEO	American Home Products Corporation	\$27,008,92
Edward M. Scolnick Executive VP	Merck and Co., Inc.	\$26,454,600
Richard Jay Kogan Chairman and CEO	Schering-Plough Corporation	\$21,444,021
David W. Anstice President, The Abbott Corp.	Merck and Co., Inc.	\$19,600,975

Courtesy Families USA

fares for women and seniors (Poz Expo for PWAs), nonprofit foundations such as the American Liver Foundation lobby groups who pour soft money into political campaigns and political front groups for industry interests such as Citizens for Better Medicare and industry-sponsored magazines and print media.

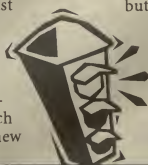
“Their people are everywhere. They have enough employees to be at most every press conference and public hearing that has to do with their products,” Laudano said. Another tactic that Laudano mentioned was letter writing campaigns. Industry front groups such as PhRMA pay individual contractors up to \$150 each for hand-written letters to senators and members of Congress. Of course the letters must be pro-drug company and look like they have come from a concerned citizen—the little guy.

The Families USA report appears to be a well thought out and researched document. PhRMA issued a flat denial of its authenticity but offered no reasons why the report might be mistaken. For the HIV community the news is not good. While drug companies are being pressured to provide cheap or free drugs for Third World countries, and the potential loss of intellectual property if countries produce their own drugs, more profits likely will be spent on advertising and political lobbying to

protect pharmaceutical interests. Of course when one is earning \$40 million-plus per year such as Pfizer's William Steere Jr., one might not want to see too much money diverted to risky research and development. The safer course to steer, as we have seen in AIDS, is to reformulate and over-promote the products that are already FDA approved.

At a recent drug company advertising conference, there was a presentation on how effective direct-to-consumer (DTC) drug ads can be. The speaker referred to the recent Viracept ad campaign. He noted that what was once a “last place” protease inhibitor was now in the #1 position thanks to a smart and aggressive advertising campaign. Of course almost everyone who takes Viracept will suffer severe diarrhea and may not be getting the best antiviral coverage. No matter. When life-saving drugs are treated like hair spray and mouthwash, how much longer can we trust such an industry to continue on with the good work of saving lives? ▼

Visit Families USA at [www.FamiliesUSA.org](http://www.FamiliesUSA.org), or if you are interested in earning money writing bogus letters to politicians, and have not already sold your soul somewhere else, contact PhRMA at [www.Phrma.org](http://www.Phrma.org).



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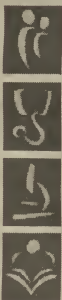
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## AIDS Walk sets record



Participants in the July 15 AIDS Walk San Francisco in Golden Gate Park raised a record \$3.8 million for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 38 other AIDS organizations. Above, members of the Culture Dance Troupe were among the more than 25,000 participants who took part in the 10K walk. Individuals and members of over 700 corporate and community teams collected more than 300,000 pledges from family, friends, and coworkers. More than 1,000 volunteers helped staff the event.

Photo: Philomena Chikand



## OBITUARIES

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**John Ernest Paschke**  
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On July 7th we lost a dear son, friend and lover. John passed away peacefully surrounded by many loving friends that cared so much for him. He was a very giving and caring man and meant so much to all the lives he touched. John first became ill with HIV-related PML in April and fought a courageous battle the past three months. During his illness he never once complained about his situation and maintained a positive attitude

until the end. John's memory will remain with all of his dear friends as someone who truly made a difference in all our lives.

John is survived by many friends here in the Bay Area as well as his immediate family in both Indiana and Michigan. John moved to the Bay Area over 20 years ago. He met and fell in love with his beloved Tony 13 years ago. John and Tony had a beautiful loving life together which included many trips to Hawaii, the Southwest and Midwest.

A memorial through donations is being established which will provide funding to various organizations in the San Francisco area. Those interested in donating to John's memory may contact Scott Southard via email at ssouthard@sprint@earthlink.com or call (415) 467-5130.



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## Author Tove Jansson dies at 86

by Liz Highleyman

On June 27, Finnish author and artist Tove Marika Jansson died in Helsinki at the age of 86.

Jansson was born in Helsinki to a bohemian Swedish-speaking family; both of her parents were artists. She studied art in Stockholm, Helsinki, and Paris.

In keeping with Scandinavian custom, Jansson was circumspect about her personal life. An intensely private woman, she lived for many years on a remote island outside of Finland with her long-time female partner, graphic artist Tuulikki Pietilä.

Jansson was best known for her Moomintroll characters, beloved of children and adults throughout the world. Although they are not well known in the U.S., the Moomins — and Jansson — are household names in Europe

and Japan.

The Moomintrolls — which somewhat resemble the Pillsbury doughboy with pointed ears, a large snout, and a long, tufted tail — are characterized by mischievousness, acceptance of difference, and a conflicting combination of laziness and love of adventure. The idea for the Moomin characters grew out of folk legend; Jansson's uncle reportedly regaled her with tales of the Moomin troll when she was a girl. Jansson's Moomin figure is said to have first appeared in an anti-Nazi cartoon she published in the late 1930s in the magazine *Garm*. Jansson's books were written in Swedish and translated into over 30 languages. She published several Moomin novels and picture books between 1945 and 1970.

The popularity of the books led to the creation of an industry of spinoff products, from stuffed toys to jewelry to ceramic tableware.

The Moomintrolls and their friends have been portrayed in a British newspaper comic strip, in theater and opera productions, in a Japanese animated television series, and on a Finnish postage stamp. Finland is home to both a Moomin museum and a Moomin-themed amusement park.

In addition to her children's books, Jansson also wrote novels and short stories for adults. A selection of her work appears in a German collection of writings by lesbians entitled *Sappho küss Europa* (*Sappho Kisses Europe*). Jansson's visual art was shown in many gallery exhibits, and her paintings are displayed in Helsinki's city hall.

Jansson won the Finnish State Award in literature three times, as well as the Nils Holgersson Medal and the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for her contribution to children's literature. The president of Finland named her an honorary professor in 1995. ▼

## Civil rights leaders oppose faith-based follies

by Bob Roehr

The Bush administration's faith-based initiative came under a withering attack from civil rights groups at a July 17 news conference outside the Capitol building. Provisions of the bill had been in flux until recently. The measure, known by the shorthand of HR 7, passed the House Judiciary Committee last week on a party line vote and is headed for an imminent vote on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Faith-based communities "have been on the front lines dealing with society's woes since the beginning of time," said Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She called the goals of HR 7 laudable in theory but unconstitutional in practice.

"We cannot afford to roll back the strides made in the civil rights movement" by passing HR 7, "which would allow religious institutions to receive federal funds and allow them to discriminate in the use of these funds," Johnson said.

"This bill gives them a right that most religious groups haven't asked for, the right to discriminate," said Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts). "The legislation as present from the Judiciary Committee, allows any entity receiving federal money for secular purposes under this bill, to ignore every state and local anti-discrimination law."

He said HR 7 "gives people a license to ignore existing state and local anti-discrimination law ... it



Congressman Barney Frank

preempts state and local law," even when it comes to spending state and local money. "Obviously gay, lesbian, and bisexual people are mainly targeted there, but it could be unmarried mothers, it could be other groups as well."

Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) fears that under HR 7, "religious groups using federal funds will for the first time be permitted to discriminate on the basis of religion and religious views. It means that a religious group can say that we don't want to hire women for the soup kitchen because our religion says that women should stay in the home."

Representative Bobby Scott (D-Virginia) noted that 60 years ago President Roosevelt signed an executive order forbidding federal contractors from discriminating "against any worker because of race, creed, color, or national ori-

gin." He said, "With the passage of HR 7, we are witness to the erosion of 60 years of civil rights law."

The only barrier to any group receiving federal funds today "is an unwillingness to comply with civil rights laws," said Scott. "It is ridiculous to suggest that you need a new law to uphold existing law."

HR 7 "allows religious organizations to use federal tax dollars to discriminate in their hiring. It is not right. It is not fair. It is not just," said Representative John Lewis (D-Georgia). "I spent more than 40 years of my life fighting for civil rights. I cannot and will not support any bill that allows a government to promote discrimination or return us to the days when religious intolerance was permitted. And neither should the Congress."

"The bill contains no additional funds to support the charitable work of our religious organizations," said Representative Elijah Cummings (D-Maryland). "By funding faith-based programs with existing federal dollars, the bill would undermine successful non-religious programs already in existence."

"We really only have a few major problems with HR 7: It is unfair. It is unjust. It is unconstitutional," said Ralph Neas, president of People For the American Way. He called the bill "a cruel hoax upon the American people" for clearly violating the separation of church and state.

"Our country should not funnel tax money — that all of us pay — to groups who actively discrim-

page 19 ►

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# Goran piece

by Jim Provenzano

National media outlets have largely ignored or trivialized Wimbledon men's tennis champion Goran Ivanisevic's use of the word "faggot" during his appearance at the post-championship news conference on Monday, July 9.

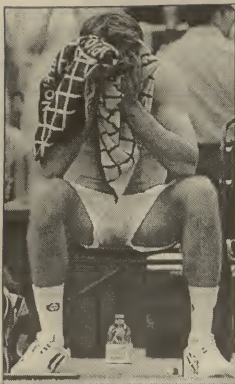
The comments from the egomaniacal Croatian, which drew laughter from the reporters in attendance, has received minimal coverage in the press. Only ESPN and the *Los Angeles Times* have covered the Ivanisevic incident in any depth. ESPN, only after being contacted by GLAAD, ran both a segment on its prime-time *SportsCenter* program and a detailed article on its Web site. And *Times* sports columnist Diane Pucin, in her excellent July 11 front-page column, addressed not only the homophobic comment but also the media's silence regarding it, citing several media outlets that

either failed to report Ivanisevic's bigoted slurs or downplayed them.

Here's a transcript of Ivanisevic's interview from July 9:

Q. When you were broken at 4-2 in the fourth set, controversial point there, can you go over that with us, what you thought should have happened?

IVANISEVIC: First of all, that game, I was 30-Love up. I play some stupid shots. I make myself in trouble. Then first foot fault. Hit great serve. He missed it. First foot fault all tournament. That ugly, ugly lady, she was really ugly, very serious, you know. I was like kind of scared. Then I hit another second serve, huge. And that ball was on the line, was not even close. And that guy, he looks like a faggot little bit, you know. This hair all over him. He call it. I couldn't believe he did it. Just, you know, in two seconds, I won point twice and I'm down 4-2. Then I got little crazy, you know.



Croat trap: Goran Ivanisevic covers his "ugly, ugly" face.

"Faggot" is apparently Ivanisevic's slur of choice. My word of choice for him and the continuing glorification of such people is "uporna bol" which is Croatian for "nagging pain."

Ivanisevic, now ranked No. 124 in the world, only got into this season's main draw at Wimbledon by being given a wild card, of which Britons get 13 out of the 16 available in the singles. This fluke of the draw has resulted in unleashing the backwards Cretin - excuse me, Croatian - onto the once pristine playing fields of merry olde England.

"Last year I played well here and played like a faggot at Wimbledon," Ivanisevic said to the *Times of London*. "Better to play like a faggot here and play well at Wimbledon. Generally, I have never played well at Queen's and these days you can lose to anyone if you don't play well."

His homophobia crossed the Atlantic in a March 14 interview at Indian Wells in California:

Q. In breaking a racquet, is it mostly in the wrist?

IVANISEVIC: Hey, sometimes I watch the TV, and then I see the guys when they throw the racquets. They throw it like a faggot, you know. They throw it not to throw it. When you throw the racquet, you throw the racquet. I mean, you break. Sometimes doesn't break, thanks God. But you throw the racquet. You don't throw it and it's going like this. You have to smack the racquet, you know, or you have to get anger.

Despite his hateful remarks, many gay-owned Web sites devoted to posting pictures of hunky athletes have no problem drooling over a bigot, even one from Croatia, where slaughtering Serbs is the national pastime.

Despite his obvious hatred toward gay people, Ivanisevic repeatedly strutted around like a peacock, stripping his clothes at press opportunities to display his

utterly average physique, apparently in order to make good on a promise that if he won Wimbledon he would expose himself.

He has, in abundance.

## Strength

Women's wrestling will receive a weekend introductory clinic at Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th Street. Golden Gate Wrestling Club hosts "Hillier Side," a women-only event, Friday July 20, 7-9 p.m. and Sunday July 22, 2-4 p.m.

This is a rare opportunity for women interested in real amateur wrestling in a safe environment with accomplished athletes. You need to have or buy a USA Wrestling card (\$25). For info e-mail women@ggwc.org, or visit <http://www.ggwc.org>.

## Stroke

The Bay Blades will be participating in the Lake Merritt Sprints on July 29, at Lake Merritt in Oakland. Sounds like a perfect way to enjoy a picnic lunch, watching a classy rowing competition.

With up to eight different entries and a total of 19 rowers (10 women, nine men), the Blades continue to grow and compete. Their last race was July 8 at Lake Natoma in Rancho Cordova.

For more info, call Debra Bonnefin at (415) 584-1257, Jeff Seiff at (415) 221-5046 or visit: <http://www.rowlakemerritt.org/clubinfor/>

## Struck

Bay Area boxer Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi, the only out lesbian in the sport, won her fourth championship title last Saturday in Hayward, winning a 10-round match by unanimous decision over Britt van Buskirk of Illinois. She is now the WIBA Super Lightweight World Champion, and her record improves to 16 wins, 1 loss, 1 draw.

## Splash

Despite the San Francisco Tsunami Water Polo A team's loss in the bronze round to Team Montreal at Toronto's IGLA 2001 tournament July 5-9, members of the fledgling squad had a good time.

Two teams represented the Bay Area in this year's International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) competition. The A team came in 4th place, while the B team placed 10th out of 10 teams.

B team goalie Brian Shepp joked at one social event that they had the dubious honor of being "the worst gay team in the world!"

The 22 SF athletes, led by player-coach Christina McCall, finished their inaugural season with hope and happiness, despite the losses.

McCall commented, "This is an amazing group of athletes. The B squad's last game Sunday was at 12:30 in the afternoon, but most of the group rallied and woke up early and came to cheer on the A team in the 7:45 a.m. game against the West Hollywood team. We had no chance of winning and we were predictably defeated 18-4, but still they were there."

Saturday, the B team tied Seattle 8-8 in an exciting match, their first taste of near-victory.

Team founder Jim Ruggiero said, "We've been in the pool three times a week this last month preparing for the tournament."

After a break for the summer, they will return to the once-a-week schedule each Saturday. "In the fall we'll step it up again and start getting ready for Sydney," said Ruggiero. "The team is pretty fired up."

IGLA 2002 will be part of the larger quadrennial Gay Games happening in November 2002.

Along with the Tsunami swimming and diving teams, the group successfully won the bid to bring IGLA to the San Francisco Bay Area the summer of 2003. They will take advantage of Stanford's new Olympic class aquatic center and possibly host up to 1,500 athletes. The Stanford pool decks will also see the traditional IGLA Pink Flamingo competition - the closing event where the wackiest team show wins.

In IGLA diving events, Tsunami's Andrew Harper made quite a splash; well, nary a rip, since that's the point of good diving, not to make a splash.

In the male 20-24 meter tower category, Harper took first place with 126.25 points, and a first place in men's springboard 20-24 as well, with 194.80 points.

Nine hundred and sixteen participants registered for IGLA 2001 in Toronto. Team Tsunami sent over 40 swimmers in addition to the water polo squad. Of these, 710 registered for swimming, 23 registered for diving, and 143 registered for water polo. One hundred and twelve of the registrants are female, and 804 of the registrants are male.

Tsunami Masters swim team will be hosting its third annual "SwimSF" meet on Saturday, September 29 (it coincides with the Folsom Street weekend). Like last year, this swim meet will be held at the beautiful Burlingame Aquatic Center.

For more information about Tsunami Water Polo, contact Jim Ruggiero at [jamesr@novocorp.com](mailto:jamesr@novocorp.com), call (415) 720-5756, or visit [www.tsunamipolo.org](http://www.tsunamipolo.org). For more info on Tsunami, visit <http://www.sftsunami.org>.

For full results of the IGLA events, searchable by team, event or competitor, visit <http://igla.org>.

## Stamina

San Francisco Women's Flag Football League is huddling up. Women all over the Bay Area are gearing up for the upcoming fall football season. The San Francisco Women's Flag Football League features a recreationally competitive league that provides opportunities to enhance athletic skills, learn football strategy and techniques, and to get involved in the growing GLBT sports community.

"The league is run by volunteers who love the game of flag football, and who welcome others to learn about it too," said organizer Judea Eden.

Upcoming events include:

July 24 - Deadline to register a team

August 26 - Football boot camp 101

September 9 - Fall season begins

October 13 - SFWWFL fundraiser at El Rio

To get involved on an existing team or enroll your team in the fall 2001 league, contact Judea Eden at (415) 401-0197 or e-mail at [judeae@microsoft.com](mailto:judeae@microsoft.com). ▼

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## Amendment

◀ page 1

ments establishing and then repealing Prohibition; changes in voting structure; and term limits for the president, adopted after the four-term presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who wasn't into terming out.

### Tough to amend

Amending the Constitution is "extremely difficult," the dean said. "There are two methods, one very, very hard and the other near impossible."

The first requires introduction of the amendment into both houses of Congress. It must be passed by a two-thirds vote in both houses, and then ratified by three-quarters of the states, or 38.

This requires "near-consensus across the spectrum of American political thought," said Oppenheimer. "For Congress, you'd need nearly universal national agreement on a fundamental change to the charter of our nation."

"Look at the ERA [Equal Rights Amendment]—that couldn't get passed because of one or two states."

In the second option, also offered in Article V of the Constitution, two-thirds of the states would have to agree to call a constitutional convention. If they succeeded, then three-quarters of the states would have to ratify the measure.

"This method has never been a success," Oppenheimer said, laughing. "The last Constitutional Convention was in Philadelphia."

That is, in 1787. ▼

For specifics, see the National Archives and Records Administration Web site's discussion, [www.nara.gov/fedreg/amdhome.html](http://www.nara.gov/fedreg/amdhome.html).

## DuPont

◀ page 1

fections makes them two to three times more likely to acquire HIV, yet the program is given just \$150,000 for its development. And the "African American Gay/Bisexual Men's HIV Prevention Social Marketing Initiative," according to Wallace, may not be able to make a dent in the community with just the \$225,000 allocated.

"We just submitted a grant proposal for social marketing that came in at about \$1.4 million," explained Wallace. "About \$1 million was for billboards alone, and that was opting for the cheapest package. So \$1.4 million is about the minimum you'd need to do a thorough job with social marketing to the black

community."

A fourth initiative, answering the city's call for "prevention for positives," will receive just \$100,000.

Wallace said his agency was not contacted for input into the fund allocation process. That process included a series of meetings, according to DuPont's associate director of public affairs David Rosen, mostly assembled by city officials. Mike Shriver, Mayor Willie Brown's adviser on HIV/AIDS policy, did not return phone calls to the *Bay Area Reporter* in time for deadline, but it is known that he has been advocating funding the Bayview Chlamydia program for quite some time.

Original plans called for half of the funding to be distributed through the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council, while the

other half would be filtered through a prevention program chaired by Dr. Tom Coates, director of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco.

Although perhaps just a drop in the bucket now, more than \$4 million is still expected from the grant program in the future, and that's where advocates like Wallace are optimistic that the populations most in need will receive culturally appropriate prevention.

African American men who have sex with men, although just 4 percent of San Francisco's GBT community, represent 12 percent of HIV cases, according to data from DuPont. About half of all MTF transgenders with HIV are African American, and African American adolescents shoulder the heaviest burden of Chlamydia infections in San Francisco. ▼

## Alice Club

◀ page 2

There's such a long shot that [the tactics] would succeed, it's almost a direct insult," he added.

He said the club board "put in extra efforts" over the weekend to boost turnout at the endorsement meeting, aimed at getting Leno backers in case Migden tried to get Britt supporters to attend: "This was in anticipation of a floor fight or in case people showed up at the last minute."

Alice has about 300 members.

One member who called Migden's office was a former Alice board member, Michael Colbruno, who was furious with what he saw as an unwarranted attack

on Migden. In an e-mail to the Alice board which he copied to the B.A.R., he said in part: "How dare you attack her!!! You only make yourself and Alice look ridiculous. Moreover, you diminish our credibility."

He suggested a retraction of the Alice endorsement press release and an apology to the assemblywoman, adding that the events raised questions about the democratic process at the club.

Colbruno, who worked for Migden for six years, told the B.A.R.: "We go back to the Harvey [Milk] days with Harry Britt; there's a long history of AIDS service, domestic partners work put forward by Britt and Migden."

"The issue for me is, Alice didn't even offer the respect to Britt

to reintroduce him [Britt is reentering politics after a hiatus] ... I thought it was incredibly disrespectful to the person Milk wanted to replace him."

"Migden deserves some say on who replaces her in the Assembly; she's doing holy work on domestic partners. For queers to trash queers is unconscionable."

Moreover, Colbruno said, "Had Alice granted Harry Britt the courtesy [of an invitation], I suspect the assemblywoman would have wanted to lobby on his behalf. Carole wants someone who has the tactical and political skills to continue her work in Sacramento. It's not any disrespect to Mark [Leno], he'd be wonderful as the heir apparent for Harry." ▼

## CHAT

◀ page 12

will come with different problems. We address them where they're at, help them strategize better ways to overcome barriers. If they're not ready to roll with a strategy, we'll work with that.

"Let's say someone comes through [the program], he likes to use speed, and when he does, he doesn't take his meds. He clearly doesn't want to stop using speed. Our intervention helps him come up with ways to stick to the schedule."

"He and the counselor are going to figure out together what to do. The counselor isn't there to tell you what to do; the session is about getting participants to solve

their own problems."

Crosby said one speed user who joined CHAT found he could set his Palm Pilot to go off when he needed to take his medications.

Some people use sticky notes, plastering them wherever there's daily routine. "Usually the bathroom and kitchen," Crosby said. "But some people have their meds packed in baggies and put them in their backpacks. If you have a cell phone, you can set it to buzz."

Not sticking exactly to a HAART regimen tends to produce resistant strains of virus, which can then be transmitted sexually to uninfected or infected partners, Crosby said.

"We know that if a person has at least 95 percent adherence to their medical regimen, they're

more likely to have an undetectable viral load than someone at 90 or 85 percent," Crosby added. "It's not an absolute where 100 percent adherence means an undetectable viral load. We're trying to reduce viral load by increasing adherence."

"We can't demonstrate yet that that's what will happen; we'd like to see."

Participants will be paid, though Crosby declined to give specifics. Those wanting help for their alcohol or drug issues can get referrals. ▼

For more information on the CHAT study, call (415) 597-9204. The Web site is [www.caps.ucsf.edu/CHAT](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/CHAT).

## Faith-based

◀ page 17

inate," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. "Public policy should not reflect private prejudice, and under no circumstances should it be funded."

One would expect socially con-

servative organizations to be in the middle of any legislative debate that was seen as both pro-faith and anti-gay. HR 7 is the exception to the rule. Search the Web site of the Christian Coalition and there is not a whisper of HR 7 among the 13 legislative issues they highlight. Pat Robertson long ago stated his personal opposition to the idea.

The Family Research Council, Eagle Forum, and others are all silent.

As the group Concerned Women for America argued in the current issue of their magazine, "Religious conservatives warn that FBOs [faith-based organizations] that accept government funds could compromise their religious identity." ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249762

The following person(s) are doing business as R & R Junior, 419 Campbell Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rene I. Hernandez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 22, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/22/01. JUNE 28, JULY 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249720

The following person(s) are doing business as The French Tulip, 4834 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kevin Odiozil. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/20/01. JUNE 28, JULY 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249532

The following person(s) are doing business as Blue Period, 584 Castro Street #475, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Danny McCloskey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 13, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/13/01. JUNE 28, JULY 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249900

The following person(s) are doing business as Wax It Up, 1561 Filbert Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Edward Welsh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/28/01. JULY 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249782

The following person(s) are doing business as On The Run Productions, 1200 22nd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian A. Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/25/01. JULY 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249580

The following person(s) are doing business as The Hot Tub, 49 Grace Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kevin H. Aachs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/14/01. JULY 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249849

The following person(s) are doing business as Flower Cart, 2 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chiang Sai-Mui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 27, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/27/01. JULY 12, 19, 26, AUG. 2, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249993

The following person(s) are doing business as Michael Vash Designs, 1165 Bay Street #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael E. Vash. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 02, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/03/01. JULY 12, 19, 26, AUG. 2, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249662

The following person(s) are doing business as Frameline Production, 766 Clementina, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mario Bruno. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/18/01. JULY 12, 19, 26, AUG. 2, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.249554

The following person(s) are doing business as Daniel Scott Ripley Caterer, 85 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Scott Ripley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/13/01. JULY 12, 19, 26, AUG. 2, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250127

The following person(s) are doing business as Caffe Soma, Soma Caffe, Caffe Soma Caffe, 1601 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/10/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250026

The following person(s) are doing business as Maurice's Restaurant, 312 Divisadero, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Maurice Moganann. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/05/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250130

The following person(s) are doing business as David Lurey Consulting / David Lurey Ashtanga, 1348 Sacramento Street #16, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Lurey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/10/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250213

The following person(s) are doing business as David A. Stacy Designer, 378 Liberty Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Arthur Stacy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/12/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250099

The following person(s) are doing business as Vege House, 309 6th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Van T. Dang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 19, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/09/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250236

The following person(s) are doing business as New Fashion Design, 888 Brannan Street, #275, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oh, Hyang Suk. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 13, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/13/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250254

The following person(s) are doing business as Brendel Insurance Services, 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed James R. Brendel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/13/01. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.322877

In the Matter of the Application of Julian Andres Mendoza, For change of Name. The application of Julian Andres Mendoza for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Julian Andres Mendoza has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Louis Alonzo Mendoza. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.322525

In the Matter of the Application of Mohamed Nagi Aldalali, For change of Name. The application of Mohamed Nagi Aldalali, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Mohamed Nagi Aldalali has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Abu-Nagi Mohamed Nagi Aldalali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.321200

In the Matter of the Application of Tung Anh Payton, For change of Name. The application of Tung Anh Payton for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tung Anh Payton has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Anh Payton. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001



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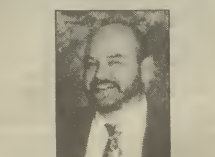
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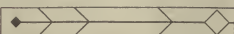
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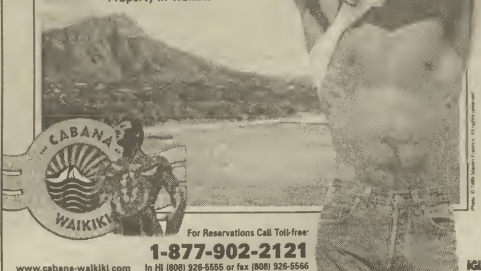


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## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 322136

In the Matter of the Application of Duane Martin Boxer, For change of Name. The application of Duane Martin Boxer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Duane Martin Boxer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dina Lee Boxer. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

**JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001**

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page 28

**Inventing Sappho**  
'Book Report' devours  
'The Sappho Companion.'  
page 32



**Disco fever**  
'Can't Stop the Music'  
at the Castro Theatre.  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 29 • 19 July 2001

## THE ANGRY INCH GETS HAPPY

TALKING WITH  
'Hedwig's'  
JOHN CAMERON  
MITCHELL

by Brandon Judell

**F**inally, the critically acclaimed off-Broadway sensation about a "slip of a girly-boy who becomes an internationally ignored artist" has arrived on the Big Screen. Now no one can ignore Hedwig and her angry inch.

Directed, written and starring John Cameron Mitchell, with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is the tale of an effeminate, impoverished East German teenager who falls in love with a callous black GI back when the Berlin Wall was still a reality. ("Our apartment was so small, my mother made me play in the oven.")

When his soldier is about to be shipped back home, the distraught Hedwig is talked into having a sex-change operation so he and his beau can get married. Well, why not? After all, who needs that little piece of flesh if it keeps you living in a Communist stronghold, and you hardly use it anyway? The operation is botched, but it does get Hedwig into a trailer park in Kansas with his honey, who

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John Cameron Mitchell, writer, director, and star of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*

Sophie Graud / Fine Line Features



Hedwig and the Angry Inch

## HEDWIG ROCKS

INCHING TOWARD FAME by Robert Julian

**T**he antecedents for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* include *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *A Star is Born*, and the entire oeuvre of both John Waters and David Bowie. But despite the inevitable comparisons, *Hedwig* remains a startlingly original creation — a wildly entertaining rock musical that works on its own terms. This Off-Broadway hit makes the transition to celluloid with its integrity intact, and if there is any justice in the world, it should be one of the summer's big hits.

Hedwig (John Cameron Mitchell) begins life as Hansel, an all-too-pretty German boy who hooks up with a sugar daddy in the form

of a black Army sergeant stationed in Berlin. In order to take young Hansel back to the States as his spouse, the sergeant suggests a sex-change operation. Hansel agrees to the procedure, but the surgeon makes critical mistakes that leave the newly-created Hedwig with a one-inch mound sited just above a long pubic scar. The work is good enough to get Hedwig and her sergeant back to Junction City, Kansas, but she soon finds herself abandoned by her new husband.

Supporting herself by baby-sitting and giving blow jobs, Hedwig meets young Tommy Speck (Michael Pitt from *Dawson's Creek*).

page 31 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



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by Roberto Friedman  
and Nao Playing

We were perusing the San Francisco movie listings and couldn't help noticing that the titles of films now playing sound just like a rundown of the contemporary power scene in Washington, DC. If you don't believe us, take a gander at the following one-to-one correspondence between current flick and prominent political hack:

*Lost and Delirious*: "President" George W. Bush

*Scary Movie 2*: Bush Administration 2

*A.I. Artificial Intelligence*: White House press secretary Ari Fleischer

*Bully*: Attorney General John Ashcroft

*The Closer*: White House counselor Karen Hughes



Cattiness prevails in the Capitol.

*Cats & Dogs*: Divided US Senate ("Things are gonna get hairy!")

*Pootie Tang*: Rep. Gary Condit's Capitol agenda

*Sexy Beast*: Evil Veep Dick Cheney — but this is only apt if you like 'em beefy, amoral, and living life on the edge of cardiac arrest.

Of course, you can play this game with local politicians like Assemblywoman Carole Migden (*With a Friend like Harry*), but we'd only get into trouble on that trip.

## Court jester

Last week, newly crowned Wimbledon champion Goran

Ivanisevic made some astonishingly hateful remarks that were largely ignored by the worldwide sports media. Reminds us of that famous Zen koan: If an idiot spews invective in the forest and nobody hears him, is he still a bigot? Yes, grasshopper.

A lineswoman who called a foot fault during the championship match was described by the Croatian tennis champ at a postgame press conference as "that ugly, ugly lady — she was really ugly, very serious." Then Ivanisevic characterized a linesman who made a dicey call on his serve as "that guy, he looks like a fag-got a little bit."

We know that longtime Wimbledon champion and object of Out There's lust Pete Sampras would never have let us bed him down, but he'd also never in a million years be as rude and clueless as this guy. OT says, time for a rematch.

## Tricks of the trade

One of Out There's most streetwise secret agents — he lives in the none-too-Tenderloin and has a license to thrill — swears he saw Cecil B. deFilm-maker, in town a couple of weeks ago for a certain film festival, stumbling down Polkstrasse in the wee hours of the morning "looking like he'd just been rolled."

Our eyes on the street say Mr. Director seemed disheveled and disoriented, and he was stumbling through that "suspicious" stretch of Polk where boy whores have plied their wares since time immemorial. Perhaps the "Prince of Puke" or whatever he goes by these days encountered a trick who turned? Or who didn't exactly care for his latest feature film?

## Strange fruit

Out There is still getting over a feature article titled "Of Gays and Gauchos (and Brazilian Gaucherie)" which ran in *The New York Times* recently, accompanied by a rather tacky photo.

The piece tells the strange tale of Pelotas, Brazil, which "looks much like any other [city] its size in Brazil, but its 325,000 residents are victims of a peculiar prejudice they cannot seem to escape. For more than a century, Brazilians of every class in every part of the country have believed that all the men here are homosexuals."

"On television comedy programs, any time a skit features an exaggeratedly effeminate character, he is invariably said to be from Pelotas," wrote *Times* correspondent Larry Rother. "When the local soccer team plays games on the road, the opposing team's fans bombard the Pelotas players with derisive chants throughout the match."

All sorts of explanations ensue, including the city's annual carnival, which has a long-standing tradition of men in women's dress. Hmmm. Then we read that Brazilian society has a "pattern of linking regions or places to notions of sexuality," and that women from the northeastern state of Paraíba are always assumed to be lesbians! Geography apparently does determine destiny.

So we started to think about it and realized that this same paradigm can apply to the States. You say Chelsea, we think: super-inflated muscles put to no practical use. You say Provincetown, we think: summering professors of cultural anthropology. You say Key West, we think: embittered, alcoholic, homosexual playwrights of a certain age, and bourbon — though not necessarily in that order. You say South Beach, we think: hot South American models who take Visa. You say the Castro, we think — oh, but we'd only get in more trouble.

Ironically, for all of its super-gay image, Pelotas has no gay political muscle at all. Local lawyer and gay rights advocate José Antonio Cattaneo ran for City Council last fall but pulled in few votes. "After he posed for campaign photographs in the main square wearing bikini briefs, a tie and cowboy boots," notes the *Times*, "the local bar association sought to have him disbarred." Photo oops.

## People who need tchotchkas

Castro queens with any short-term memory left at all will recall *Hello, Gorgeous*, the former Barbra Streisand museum and shrine on Castro Street that enjoyed rather more than its requisite 15 minutes of fame. Sloggers through what passes for the local press will also remember the inordinate amount of publicity thrown its way when *Hello, Gorgeous* posted a closing notice — again and again.

Now comes a breathless press release touting a museum/tribute "to the Greatest Star of the Last Century, Miss Barbra Streisand. The only entertainer in history to win the Academy Award, the Tony, Grammy, Emmy, Golden Globe and more before the age of 27!"

The "tribute," any element of which can be purchased for a price, is currently on exhibit at Soho Gallery, 2150 P St. NW in Washington, DC. It "features unique artworks from around the world, especially from *Hello, Gorgeous*!" Aha, so the famed collection of "priceless masterpieces" reappears on the other side of the country. Memorabilia can of

next page ►

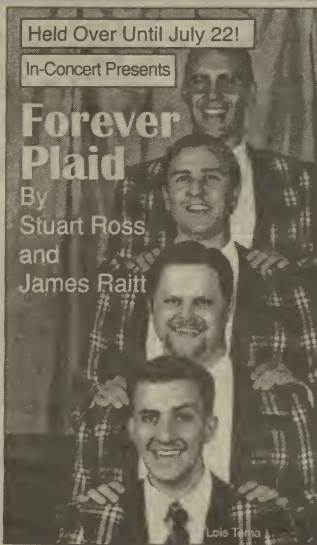
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# Sondheim connection

## Lonny Price directs 'Sweeney Todd' in SF

by Richard Dodds

Lonny Price wrote Stephen Sondheim a fan letter when he was 14, and now he is getting notes from the exalted songwriter.

Last year, Price directed a production of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* with the New York Philharmonic that starred Patti LuPone and George Hearn. The event is being recreated this week at Davies Hall, this time with the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus providing accompaniment for a cast again headed by LuPone and Hearn.

"Stephen was very involved in New York," Price said. "He came to rehearsals and gave us some notes which were completely terrific, cogent, and smart. He'll be in San Francisco, too, and I'm sure he'll give me some more notes. I'm hoping I can get him to take a bow at the end of the show."

This is heady stuff for Price, who grew up with Sondheim as his hero. But it's not the first time their paths have crossed professionally. Price got his big break as an actor as one of the stars of Sondheim's 1981 musical *Merrily We Roll Along*.

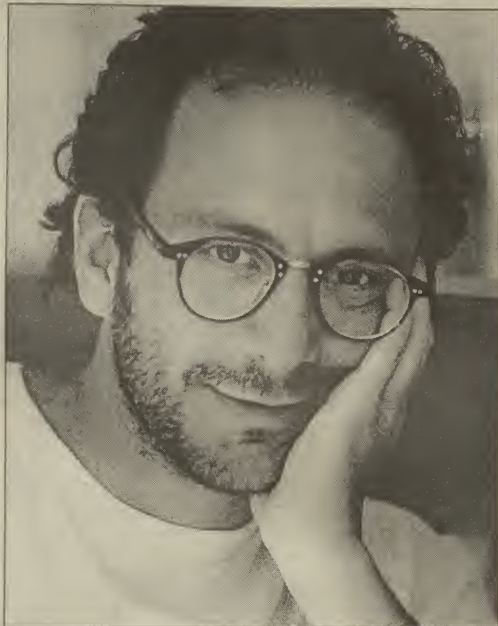
"I was very much the kid when I did *Merrily*, but when I did *Sweeney Todd* I really felt we met as — I can't say equals, because who's his equal? — but as colleagues," Price said. "He treated me with an incredible amount of respect. And I actually fudged with the text a little bit, which once would have terrified me to suggest and that was still a little rough because he said, 'I don't really agree with that.' And I actually found the courage to say, 'Steve, take a look at it again,' and he came around and said, 'You're right. Do what you want.'"

Price has yet another Sondheim connection, dating back to when he was 15 and worked as a volunteer gopher for director-producer Hal Prince when he was presenting Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*. And while Price was eventually dismissed for asking too many questions, he is using some of what he learned back then on his current project.

"I call it *Pacific Overtures* meets *Sweeney Todd*," Price said. "It uses some Kabuki techniques, and it's done on a series of red platforms, and all the props are black. It's very simple and very spare, but it's a fully-staged production. Basically, the action happens around the orchestra on three levels, and the orchestra is kind of a character in it."

### Thrills, chills

LuPone is playing Mrs. Lovett, purveyor of the worst meat pies in Victorian London, while Hearn is playing her lodger, whose quest for revenge against a corrupt judge provides Mrs. Lovett with



Price: 'I was always the good thing in a bad thing.'

some tastier ingredients for her meat pies. It's a thriller told as Grand Guignol opera. "I think this is Sondheim's masterpiece," Price said, "and it's a thrill to direct it."

Price is also directing the taping of the San Francisco performances for future broadcast, perhaps on PBS, as he calls upon his four years of experience as a soap-opera director for this venture. "I'm interested in seeing how I can tell the *Sweeney Todd* story in pictures, which is both interesting and terrifying."

Directing is what Price loves best these days, though he recently ended a 10-year hiatus from acting to star on Broadway in *A Class Act*, which he also co-authored and directed. It was a musical built from songs by Ed Kleban, the emotionally troubled lyricist for *A Chorus Line* who died before he could realize his dream of writing both the music and lyrics for a Broadway show. *A Class Act* emerged from Musical Theatre Works, an incubator for new musicals that has Price as its artistic director.

While Price enjoyed his experiences with *A Class Act*, he said he is quite content to resume an acting-free career. It was a decision that dates back to 1989, when he was starring in *Durante* in what was supposed to be a pre-Broadway tour. It opened promisingly enough in San Francisco, but ended its run prematurely because of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. The producer soon ran out of money, and the entire project collapsed.

"That's part of why I became a director," Price said. "I always felt that I was at the mercy of incompetent producers and directors who didn't quite know what they were doing. This sounds egotistical, but I was always the good thing in a bad thing. It was heart-breaking for me. I thought, the next time I want to be the idiot who messes things up."

Price also looks back to his *Durante* days as his final fling with heterosexuality. "My last girlfriend was company manager of that show," he said. "I came out very late, and I was with women for a long time. But the truth is, when I was with women I missed being with men, and when I was with men I didn't miss being with women. I thought that was a real clue to where I was supposed to be."

Since his coming out and his withdrawal from acting happened at about the same time, Price can't say if he'd be as open about being gay if he were still an actor. "If audiences think you're gay and you're playing a romantic lead, there's something in their minds that makes it less fun for them," he said. "I know actors who struggle with that, and some have come out and are fine, but others who feel differently about it. I don't know how I would feel at this point."

Price has just started dating someone new, and he's hoping his new beau will join him in San Francisco. "We're still trying to figure out how we can be together," Price said. "He's an actor, and I had sworn never again." ▼



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### Out There

◀ previous page

course be purchased at the "Barbra Streisand Backstage Outlet" located in the very same building. Pastels, charcoals and oil paintings — including the one reproduced here of Babs with fellow "Legend of the Century" Judy Garland — can be scoped at the online "museum/tribute/store" at [www.BarbraLover.com](http://www.BarbraLover.com). ▼



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# Across the barricades

## 2001 SF Jewish Film Festival crosses lines

by David Lamble

The Jewel in the Crown of the seven-month Bay Area film festival season is the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. In its 21st season, this "you don't have to be Jewish to love it" collection of 26 features and 18 short films from 13 countries covers an astonishing range of themes and subjects. Many of these films cry out to be seen by a wider audience.

*Trembling Before G-d*, this year's closing night program at the Castro Theatre, is one of the rare documentaries which has generated so much buzz at Sundance that its distributor, New Yorker Films, is tightly rationing press exposure before what they hope is a boffo commercial release. Filmed over five years, *Trembling* (with its circumspect use of the G word) sets out to tell the stories of sexually active and spiritually devote lesbians and gay men who fall along the Hasidic and Orthodox end of the religious Richter scale. The rules of the road can be a little tricky for those who seek considerably more than to just live with another of their own sex. Set in Orthodox communities around the globe, from Jerusalem to San Francisco, director Sandi DuBowski shows the dilemmas of diverse persons, from the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi (Steve Greenberg, who will appear in person for a post-film discussion), to deeply closeted and married Hasidic queers, to very out individuals kicked out of Orthodox families. (Castro, 7/26)

Another hit at Sundance, Ar-

gentinean director Daniel Burman's *Waiting for the Messiah* uses a stock-market crash to jolt its darkly handsome if passive protagonist out of the torpor of a well-ordered life in a Buenos Aires Jewish ghetto. Ariel's (Daniel Hendler) strategy for sneaking through life as a polite Mama's boy is torpedoed when Mama dies, leaving Ariel's father a run-down Jewish family restaurant. Ariel's comfortable life of treeless Xmas celebrations, Hebrew Club meetings, and freelancing as a videographer at Jewish weddings, suddenly looms as a noose around his neck. By "plan" he is destined to marry Estela, a young woman with plans of her own — to transform Estrella de Simon into a Hebrew karaoke bar. Ariel's life has been so sheltered that when he meets the slightly older Laura (Chiara Caselli) at his new job as an all-night TV-station technician, he's not sure if she's described her as "gay" or "goy."

Director Burman has a sound take on Ariel and Laura's pursuit of hopeless love, but his ace in the hole lies in depicting the subtler but more enduring emotions of his older supporting characters. Santamaria (Enrique Pinero) and Elsa's story slowly upstages the lads as the movie's center of gravity. Santamaria is fired from his teller's job when a flood of bad Chinese bonds drowns his bank. A balding bear of a man, Santamaria is soon dumpster-diving in search of wallets and purses abandoned by pickpockets. He ekes out a small living returning their identities (cards and photos) to the victims.

In *Messiah*, identities are defined and redefined by the moment. Telling Ariel she's gay doesn't prevent Laura from taunting her younger lover, Annie (Dolores Fonzi), with the threat that her lesbianism is just a passing phase. "I will not be turned into a militant of my clitoris," Ariel's sluglike grasp of dating rituals is comically sent up by an older male colleague's inspection of his nicely-cut dick in the Men's Room. Ariel is informed that guys like him have their own websites ([www.circumcision.com](http://www.circumcision.com) and [www.lonelyguys.com](http://www.lonelyguys.com)). (Castro, 7/21)

### October surprise

Practically every year the Jewish fest presents a new film based on the events surrounding one of the darkest moments in Israeli

Underneath the tough talk, kids will be kids in *Promises*.

history — the surprise attack by combined Arab forces on October 6, 1973, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. *Kippur*, directed by Amos Gitai, a veteran of the war, is an amazing achievement. In some ways an Israeli *M\*A\*S\*H\** without the wisecracks, or an *Apocalypse Now* without nonstop rock music, *Kippur* has nuances and moments from every great antiwar film.

Gitai appears to violate one of filmmaking's primary rules: hook your audience in the first 10 minutes. For the first two minutes, Gitai gives a long shot of a uniformed man walking along a deserted city street; for nearly five minutes, we are treated to a young couple making out in a sea of body paint; next, we're inside a battered old Fiat while young Israeli soldiers argue the anti-consumerist rhetoric of Herbert Marcuse. *Voilà!* Gitai has us now. For the next two hours, we spend a rough day with seven members of an Israeli medical evacuation team as they swoop in and ferry out the wounded. Critical to the film is a completely subjective camera (sometimes highly mobile, often seemingly stuck in the mud of battle) which teases us with an experience that is almost beyond endurance, an experience from which we cannot avert our eyes. (Castro, 7/25)

The cover boys from this year's festival program are two pre-teens sharing a laugh. The boys, one Israeli, the other Palestinian, are part of a documentary cast of seven children recruited by the filmmaking team of Justine Shapiro and B.Z. Goldberg. Like *Peace of Mind*, last year's film with

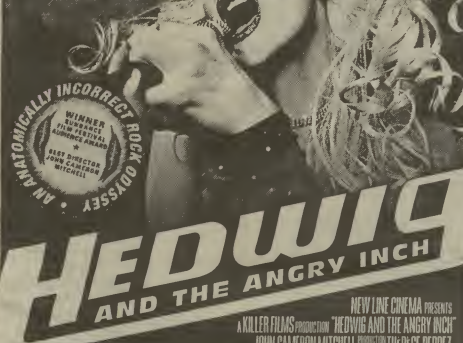
a similar theme, *Promises* consists of the efforts of the filmmakers to have young people meet and speak to each other across the barricades. The camera passes effortlessly through Israeli Army checkpoints, which are a daily reminder to tens of thousands of West Bank residents of their status under occupation, while providing a reminder to Jewish residents of the thin green line that barely protects them from sudden outbursts of violence. The four Israeli and three Palestinian kids live within 20 miles of each other and yet seem separated as if by oceans. Moishe, a young man from a right-wing Jewish settlement, speaks the cowboy language of revenge as he vows to grow up to be a Prime Minister who will banish Palestinians "out of Jerusalem." Mahmoud is a blond, blue-eyed kid who could be growing up in Orange County until his bitter speech identifies him as a supporter of Hamas, the Islamic terrorist organization.

Yarko and Daniel are twin brothers from Jewish West Jerusalem who could audition for the Israeli version of *Malcolm in the Middle*. The twins are funny and relentless as they interrogate their grandfather on his time in Nazi extermination camps and on whether he believes in God. They're eager guinea pigs for Shapiro and Goldberg's invitation to meet a group of Palestinian kids. The filmmakers make sure we realize that underneath the tough talk, kids will be kids. This is hilariously illustrated by a silly burping contest that spontaneously breaks out between an Arab boy and an ultra-Orthodox Jewish lad near the Wailing Wall. (Castro, 7/22)

Oh the lighter side, the comedy *Total Love* showcases the Israeli rave generation, 20somethings equally at home on a beach in Tel Aviv, a canal in Amsterdam or an Indian mountaintop. The film's engagingly silly premise is the potential fall-out when a very cute Israeli boy (butch body, girlishly-styled long hair) produces a test-tube drug that promises to bring back the Summer of Love. (Castro, 7/21)

Briefly, the program *Jewish Girls in Shorts* gives three very contemporary spins on lesbian sexual identity. (Castro, 7/26) ▼

For showtimes of the 2001 Jewish Film Fest in Berkeley, Redwood City, San Rafael and the Castro, call (925) 866-9559, or go to [www.sjfiff.org](http://www.sjfiff.org)

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# Disco equals sex plus technology

## 'Can't Stop the Music' plays the Castro

by Mark Finch

[Editor's note: The following passages are short excerpts from a much longer essay, "Can't Stop the Music: An Investment in Image," a scholarly paper written by the late Mark Finch, co-director of the SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival from 1992-95. Finch happened to love this movie.]

[British spellings (e.g., fetishise) have been changed; otherwise, editing has been kept to a minimum. Thanks to Jenni Olson and Marc Huestis for helping make the manuscript available.]

Allen Carr's *Can't Stop the Music* is very much the product of two pivotal sensibilities in 1970s American popular culture: disco and the "event movie." By using the Village People, a pop group essentially identified as the fashion of the moment, and by exploiting film-marketing strategies developed in the promotion of *Saturday Night Fever*, the publicists' claim for "the musical motion picture event of the '80s" has more to do with lessons learnt and money earned in the 1970s than with any real insight into the next decade.

### Beats per minute

*Can't Stop the Music* was previously titled *Discoland*, *Where the Music Never Stops*, up until its release in the summer of 1980. The title change takes the emphasis away from disco, which was deemed out of fashion by this time; yet only a year before, *Newsweek* proclaimed that "Disco is here to stay." The feeling that disco was more than just a temporary trend explains why a huge financial investment in *Discoland* seemed worthwhile. *Can't Stop the Music* matches this with a peculiar aesthetic investment. Like later pop videos, the film attempts to find a visual correlative to a distinct form of music. A history of the form helps explain this.

"Disco" is a fetishized word promising many things. It's somewhere you go and something you do. More than this, disco's connotations are sexual. Disco suggests a particular type of eroticism (sexual connotations, after all, underlie most of this century's fashions in popular music), the musical equivalent of another 1970s American phenomenon, *The Joy of Sex*. Disco's sex is guiltless, recreational, undirected.

Disco has origins in gay subculture, which undoubtedly helped pattern this sexual timbre. In the mid-1970s, DJs in clubs exclusively for gays, blacks and Puerto Ricans started to play continuous music. By mixing records according to the beats per minute, DJs emphasized the building of speed, and the rushing to a climax that never comes. Latin rhythms and complex percussion sexualize the seemingly increasing beat. Affluent and young white heterosexuals adopted disco, finding its feeling of urban promiscuity a complementary extension to the singles bar.

### Good sex, bad sex

In *Can't Stop the Music's* first



The Village People's Felipe Rose discos down in *Can't Stop the Music*.

disco scene, people queue to get into Saddle Tramps Disco, but we do not see them (it's referred to in conversation); instead, the film shows a place where everyone knows everyone else, signaled by Samantha's smiles and waves to various friends. There is only one moment of *Saturday Night Fever*-style group dancing (a final shot of five people in mock conga); the rest is men and women as heterosexual couples. The optical reversals are frankly bizarre renditions of discotheque light effects.

What I want to point to in this banalized history is disco's involvement in gay subculture and "healthy sex." This is an alliance Richard Dyer dwells upon in *In Defense of Disco*; his aim is partly to make distinctions between rock music and disco in terms of eroticism. Rock is phallogocentric, whereas disco is not gender-specific and eroticizes the whole body. This opposition is important for *Can't Stop the Music*: bad sex versus good sex. Good sex is all that *The Joy of Sex* advocates: not exactly polymorphously perverse (that is, still prioritizing heterosexual intercourse), but certainly a shift from male orgasm to different ways of acquiring pleasure. To a (liberal) extent, this means the validation of homosexuality. Certainly that is what Sam implies in her response to Ron's accusation ("I don't understand why a good-lookin' girl like you is down here in the Village with a bunch of — I don't know what!"): "I don't judge people, I accept them. There isn't a person who breathes who doesn't have certain peculiarities. As long as it doesn't hurt anybody, it's all right with me."

"Yeah? And where do you draw the line?"

"With uptight squares like you."

*Can't Stop the Music* sides with the liberated morality of which disco is symptom and determinant. This morality is a confused one, since disco is ultimately unable to reconcile its gay inheritance.

### Costume party

There is a point at which the Village People's visual image can be interpreted as a play upon signs of masculinity — what amounts to subversion when taken with the group's gay-themed songs. But *Can't Stop the Music* insists upon a different interpretation most of the time. Besides linking their costumes to the fantasy costumes common in discos (Felipe, the Indian, is a waiter at Saddle Tramps), there's an emphasis on dressing up as part of show biz — for entertainment, not for any other reason. Their greatest anxiety about the Galleria concert seems to be whether their costumes — sequined versions of the "originals" — will arrive in time.

There is an image largely unmotivated by sexuality. Alex wears GI fatigues because, the dialogue explains, he has just come out of the Army; and Ray is an actual policeman. Only two of the men escape this kind of explanation: David is a model, so why does he look like a construction worker? And Ron's mother asks of Glenn, the leatherman, "Do all toll collectors look like that?"

"Only the hot ones." ▼

**The Sing-A-Long Can't Stop the Music plays the Castro Friday, July 20 at 7 & 10:30 p.m. Call 863-0611.**

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## John C. Mitchell

◀ Arts cover

immediately ditches him for younger meat.

Now Hedwig is alone with her Marlene Dietrich accent in the States, the Wall has come down, and she has no future hopes. Well, there's one. Why not become a rock star with a Farrah Fawcett hairdo?

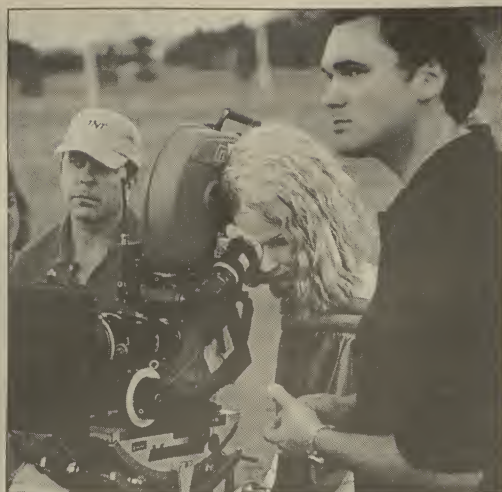
*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is about one gal's blistering trek through fifth-rate establishments across America with her motley band ("They threw tomatoes after one performance. I had a nice salad") while another of her ex-lovers, the stunning Tommy Gnosis (Dawson Creek's Michael Pitt), has become a superstar with songs he's stolen from her. So is anybody bitter?

Not Mr. Mitchell, who previously played Huck Finn in Broadway's *Big River*, Dickon in *The Secret Garden*, and Larry Kramer in Kramer's acclaimed autobiographical play *The Destiny of Me*.

### Brat race

"But is there any autobiography here?" BAR asked of Mitchell at the Berlin Film Festival, where his feature had its European premiere. After all, Mitchell had himself been an army brat with a father stationed in Germany for several years. So did an enlisted man fall in love with his butt while he was sunning in the nude?

"Not really," Mitchell said. "There were some cute soldiers in Kansas where my father was later stationed, but I was a little too young in Germany at the time to think about that. But in Kansas, at the army pool, officers and enlist-



John Cameron Mitchell on the set of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

ed men would mix because there was only one pool. That was kind of exciting when I was 14.

"This work, however, is not really autobiographical," he continued. "Well, I guess emotionally it's more autobiographical than plot-wise. I didn't get my dick cut off. I didn't marry a GI. I didn't have a Tommy Gnosis. Tommy is actually a bit more like me, because he is a General's son."

"In fact," Mitchell realized, "the piece was more about him in the beginning, and Hedwig was a small character. But we were trying out the show in a drag club, so Hedwig was the only character I could develop there. Slowly she became more interesting than Tommy, and eventually took over the piece."

After sipping some water, he noted, "That was in the period 1994 through '97, when we were doing it in the clubs. Squeezebox was the first predominantly gay rock club that I ever knew about. It opened in '94, and it was a great scene. Very exciting. Deborah Harry used to perform, and a lot of drag queens were finding their

voice and realizing they didn't have to lip-synch. They could have their own personality. I would watch them and learn from them because I had never done drag before. So I observed people like Cherry Vine, Lady Bunny, and Vaginal Cream Davis, true punk-rock drag queens stage-diving in six-inch heels. I thought, I can learn from that." And he did.

But now John Cameron Mitchell has had his fill of wearing a MAC foundation. "I was actually asked to play the part of the drag queen in the original production of *Rent*, but I was doing *Hedwig* at the time, so it felt like too many drag-queen roles. The really hard thing was shaving my eyebrows. That always felt kind of weird, but they did grow back. Also, I think I'm sort of burnt out a little bit on acting, at least for a couple of years. I'm going to be writing or directing more. I'm working on a children's film next with a composer. It's kind of a dark story. Maybe I'll do *Hedwig* concerts once in a while, but it'll be hard to get me back in that wig. It was always hurting my scalp." ▼

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## FILM

## Angry Inch

◀ Arts cover

The two ultimately set up house-keeping in a trailer and form a rock band, but the relationship sours over Hedwig's deformed angry inch. She is not only abandoned once again, but she must watch as Tommy Speck becomes Tommy Gnosis, rock star. Tommy's meteoric rise to the top is based on songs Hedwig wrote that Tommy records and takes credit for. Hedwig's revenge: she forms a rock band and tours the country playing gigs at seafood buffet restaurants near each of Tommy Gnosis' national concert tour stops. The jilted transsexual lover and "internationally ignored song stylist" becomes Tommy's stalker.

As one might imagine, this preposterous plot unfolds with more than a few belly-laughs. John Cameron Mitchell, who created the role of Hedwig on stage, serves as star, writer, and director of the film, and his work is stellar in every capacity. Cameron, the actor, manages to strike just the right balance between glam tranny rock star and tongue-in-cheek comedian. The audience is never guilt-tripped into feeling sorry for Hedwig, nor is she made the butt of other people's jokes. Actor/director Cameron skillfully keeps the film balanced between parody and full-tilt rock musical. And in a wonderfully creative stroke, he hired animator Emily Hubley, whose brief animated sequences provide an effective illumination of the film's themes.

## Point of origin

Mitchell receives able assis-



'Glamour rock with just the right amount of shopping-mall cheese.'

tance from composer/lyricist Stephen Trask, who plays band member Skszp in the film, as he did in the stage production. His music and lyrics for *Hedwig* are engaging and effective, with the moving ballad "The Origin of Love" as a particular standout. Michael Pitt's performance as Tommy Gnosis is nicely drawn, demonstrating a barely postpubescent sexiness that is both compelling and wretchedly familiar at the same time. And Therese De Prez's production design combines all the elements of glamour rock with just the right amount of shopping-mall cheese.

*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* began life when Mitchell and Trask met on an airplane and struck up a conversation about

their mutual careers. Hedwig was subsequently born, with Mitchell's dialogue and Trask's music, at New York's Squeezbox, a rock drag night at Don Hill's club in SoHo. The show's evolution from specialty cabaret act to Off-Broadway musical to feature film is a tribute to the talent and tenacity of the principals. *Hedwig* manages to be a goof as well as a subtly thought-provoking meditation on gender identity and its social implications. Despite all its cultural references, there has never been anything quite like it before. ▼

*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* opens in San Francisco on July 20.

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# Sapphorabilia

by Deborah Peifer

Ask any lesbian who Sappho is, or was, and my guess is that you'll get an answer that is both swift and sure. We all know Sappho, the Greek lyric poet from the island of Lesbos who gave us our name, our history, our identity. The fact that we have little of her writing, and most of that fragmentary, doesn't stop us from rhapsodizing about her stature as a poet. After all, Plato called her the Tenth Muse, a collection of nine volumes of her poetry was held at the great library at Alexandria, and references abound in antiquity to her greatness as a poet. A story about Solon of Athens illustrates the point.

One night his nephew sang a song of Sappho's to him. He asked his nephew to teach it to him immediately. "When a friend asked him why he was so eager, Solon replied, 'So that I may learn it and then die.'"

That very little is known of the historical woman is hardly a problem either, as that very lack of information gives us plenty of room for creativity. It turns out that inventing Sappho is a game with a long history, one that is explored in entertaining and informative depth in *The Sappho Companion* by Margaret Reynolds (Palgrave for St. Martin's, \$27.95). Reynolds' project is the history of

Sappho as she appears in the writings of Western authors from the earliest Greeks to the present, and if on her way through Sappho in letters she also offers an overview of Western literature, well, let's just call that a bonus, shall we?

Reynolds begins with pronunciation, explaining that the real name was not "all soft sibilants and faded f's but in fact she is Psappho... spitting and popping hard p's. Ppppsappoppo. We have eased off her name, made her docile and sliding, where she is really difficult, diffuse, many-syllabled, many-minded, vigorous and hard." Much more happens to Sappho than an easing of pronunciation, of course, and Reynolds provides excerpts from a wide range of sources, from early translations through short stories, poems and essays. If the Solon story offers a touch of the sublime, a limerick by Norman Douglas suggests the depths of ridiculousness: "That naughty old Sappho of Greece/ Said: 'What I prefer to a piece/ Is to have my pudenda/ Rubbed hard by the end/ The little pink nose of my niece.'"

Sappho's status as artist was tied inextricably to her sexuality, and any number of scholars attempted to rescue her from the "stain" of homosexuality. One 19th-century academic was certain that Sappho was not queer, because her poetry was admired in antiquity, and "no educated Greek



would have thought these were beautiful love poems if something monstrous and disgusting had been going on in them."

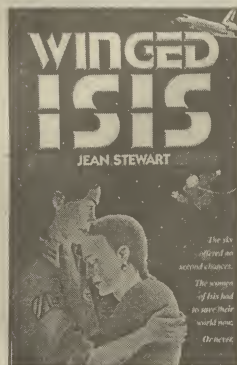
Reynolds examines the Sappho biographies that insist on her heterosexuality, as well as those that claim her for our side, with care, respect, and an occasional tongue placed firmly in cheek. *The Sappho Companion* is an extraordinary history, one that teaches while it entertains. Reynolds is a writer of elegance and style, and her introductions to the excerpts are clear, concise, and always informative.

## She's back!

Time for rejoicing, fans of Jean Stewart's Isis series. The fourth of the series, *Winged Isis* (Bella, \$11.95), is here, and it's a great read. If you haven't read the earlier books, or at least haven't read them in a while, no worries — Stewart provides a brief but compelling synopsis of the events leading to book four. Even without the crib, *Winged Isis* stands on its own as a knockout novel of a

terrifying future.

The year is 2095. The former US has been divided into three parts: Freeland, a lesbian utopia; Elysium, a Christian patriarchy; and a Dead Zone between them. This division comes about after a plague that affects heterosexuals (and so is taken seriously) decimates the country. The evil inhabitants of Elysium have attacked Freeland in the past, and to protect themselves, a force field was designed by the women, but the force field is breaking down, the satellites that maintain the barrier failing after years of use. The women of Freeland must find a way to restore the satellites, or

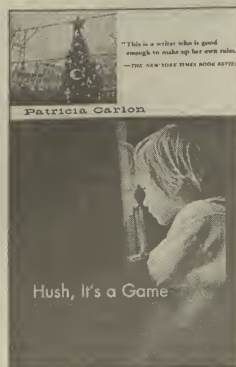


replace them, before the evil Christians from Elysium attack Isis again.

Stewart does a fine job of maintaining suspense, juggling several equally important plots with real narrative skill. She includes enough juicy sex scenes to keep everybody happy, readers and characters alike. Her characters are satisfyingly complex — even the seemingly evil Freeland General Medusa has more facets to her personality than her name might otherwise suggest. *Winged Isis* is a great read, one that will leave you aching for the next installment.

## Terror Down Under

Patricia Carlon has to stop terrifying me, or I'm telling. The latest Carlon release from Soho Crime is *Hush, It's a Game* (\$13),



and even the presence of my two faithful attack cats did not prevent me from developing a serious case of feeling very creepy. It takes either chutzpah or talent to build a novel of suspense around a six-year-old girl who is menaced by a murderer willing to inflict any amount of abuse. Carlon has talent to spare, and this novel will keep you in a much more terrifying place than the edge of your seat. Thank you so much, Soho — I was getting tired of sleeping.

## Midsummer events

Lesbian feminist author Paula Gunn Allen appears at the Main Library on July 24, 6:30 p.m., as part of the Open Books/Alternative Voices series.

Also at the Main: an exhibit of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, including various editions, as well as pictures, cards, dolls and memorabilia. If your interest is the earliest settlement of San Francisco, the Main also offers an exhibition of rare books, maps, art, artifacts, and photographs focusing on the founding of the Mission San Francisco and the Presidio. Both shows run through August.

Still furious about the judicial coup that put Resident Bush in the White House? Vincent Bugliosi's new book, *The Betrayal of America*, should make you even more outraged. He'll talk about the Supremes and their disregard of the law on August 3, 7 p.m. at The Booksmith, 1644 Haight St. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

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## ART

# Tales from the crypt

Report from San Francisco galleries in July

by Will Shank

Horea, Gallery 16, 1616 16th St.

Romanian-born artist Horea just smiles when he mentions the D-word. "It's an American thing," he says of the association of Transylvania with Dracula. And yet his current installation at Gallery 16 resonates with the iconography of the Bram Stoker novel, although the exhibition takes place in the spare, elegant context of a SoMa gallery. The "crypt-handle" is the principle object in the show, reproduced many times in digital images which were created next door to the gallery in the high-tech Urban Digital Color.

mation and animation of everyday objects and materials. If they are not quite about "life," they are "life-like." The press blurb from the gallery compares such artists to "alchemists, or Dr. Frankenstein himself." Curator Marcia Tanner, who also assembled the whimsical *Aural Sex* show at Catharine Clark a few months back, has selected wisely at New Langton. Beyond the gallery installation, the ambitious exhibition continues into cyberspace with an online art project at [www.newlangtonarts.org/network/infome](http://www.newlangtonarts.org/network/infome).

Stephanie Syjuco, who is artist-in-residence at Marin's Headlands Center, has contributed "Comparative Morphologies," a series of witty, 19th-century-looking sci-

a lecture hall at a medical college.

On the opposite wall, Gail Wight plays a similar game, with the added allure of a touch screen. Her "Linnaeus Unbound" references an 18th-century botanist whose dubious system of animal

classification is parodied by the artist, who morphs animals into machines. It is presented within the context of a hanging paper chart that resembles a didactic grade-school alphabet.

Several artists come up with

twists on traditional landscapes. Reuben Lorch-Miller, whose glowing images also illuminate the Catharine Clark Gallery this month, is represented by a backlit reproduction of a computer-

page 41 ▶



A (Iris print, 2001) by Horea

For the past decade, Horea has been a one-man, walking Museum of Transylvania, and his work both flirts with and dismisses the idea of the traditional museum-as-building. His installations are among the most innovative in the Bay Area, and if you didn't catch his red balloons in the Luggage Store Annex (World AIDS Day/Day Without Art 1998), or his Mannequin Pis urinating wine into a fountain at Refusalon this winter, then you have missed something indeed.

His most recent creations can be best described as linguistic-conceptual work, often addressing the complexities of AIDS and HIV. The crypt-handles have obvious associations with death. But the multiple photographs at Gallery 16 spell out a message, translated from Transylvanian through the non-written language of the Navajo into digital photographs. For the serious word-maven, Horea's language code game is a fascinating one.

Lest you find him too cryptic (pun intended), the artist includes a downright goofy photograph of himself balancing a portfolio on his knee in an archives back home in Romania. Through August 31.

LifeLike, New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St.

New Langton is presenting a thoughtful but fun exhibition of artists whose experimental techniques distinguish them from their peers, through the transfor-

matic diagrams of what turn out to be pieces of telephones and computers. The images, which are in fact digital prints of scanned photographs, are presented, tongue-in-cheek, on aged paper within a handsome traditional frame that looks like it came from

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# The Alameda 'Shock' wave

by Mister Marcus

A record crowd turned out last Saturday night, July 14, at the Hill and Valley Club in Hayward for the 10th Annual Mr. And Ms. Alameda Co. Leather competition. An estimated \$6,000 was raised to benefit Shelter Against Violent Environments (SAVE), Inc.

Jane Randall, the contest coordinator, deserves a lot of credit for putting it all together, and that's just what she received from ACLC president Dave Barker, who gushed with praise for Jane's work and thanked everyone involved.

Judges Dayna Davidson, Keith Truitt, "Jake" Schwartz, "Mama" Reinhardt, Jimmy Lee Murray and Yvonne Driver were obliged to score the usual categories for two men, J. J. Ferra and Mike Marrero, and one woman, "Kat" Matthews. The hopefuls had to score at least 60 percent of the available points to win.

With emcees Gary Virginia (in a stunning blue hairpiece) and Donna Sachet, the show moved along at a fast clip. It all opened with the parade of colors and a rousing national anthem by Berlin in a very patriotic get-up. The crowd roared as Gary and Donna traded barbs all evening. They were ensconced on what looked like a twin pair of electric chairs (later auctioned off), and "hot" communiques were brought to them intermittently by Eric Bernier serving as messenger — no one was spared barbs, believe me.



Bazaar

The contestants went through the ritual leatherwear, speech, "erotic" wear demonstrations, and each performed an arousing fantasy. Ms. "Kat" wrecked the audience with her "Charlie's Angels" skit, which she pulled off despite a sound glitch, and the two men performed admirable representations of top, bottom, dominance, submissive and mayhem.

After all the special awards were presented and the emcees ran out of insults for each other, the artwork and the electric chairs were auctioned off just before the tallies were announced. As it turned out, "J.J." Ferra is Mr. Alameda Co. Leather and "Kat" Matthews is



The winners in Hayward, California last Saturday, July 14 were (from left) "J.J." Ferra, Mr. Alameda County Leather 2001; "Kat" Matthews, Ms. Alameda Co. leather 2001; and Mike Merro, Alameda Co. Mr. Drummer 2001. All will advance to the next level of competition.

Ms. Alameda Co. Leather 2001. Mike Marreo was named Mr. Alameda Co. Drummer. "JJ" and "Kat" will go to the next level of competition and Mike will compete for the Mr. Northern California Drummer 2001 title later this month. It was a rousing good evening, and congratulations to all involved. ACLC gives good "contest".

## Follow the Drummer beats

The march toward the International Drummer and Drummer Boy competition, which will take place in St. Petersburg, Florida on the weekend of October 2-4, forges briskly ahead, with the roster of the competitors growing almost weekly. In San Francisco, the Northern California Drum-

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, July 19-23

It's Lazy Bear Weekend up at the Russian River! The main headquarters is the Russian River Eagle, but events are scheduled all over up there. Harry Lit and the Sacramento Valley Bears have all sorts of fun planned and it's not all just for bears. Have a furry time!

### Thursday, July 19

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon from 2000-2300 and it's a paltry \$7 for all you can guzzle. They say it's a "no frills" event and they mean it!

### Friday, July 20

Exiles of SF present their monthly lecture series, this one is all about Blood Lust: The Art of Cutting, at the Women's Building. Doors open at 1930, action at 2000. \$3 for members, \$6 for others. Lousy parking! Take MUNI, please.

### Sunday, July 22

Constantines MC wall again with a beer/soda bust again at the Lone Star Saloon from 1600-2000 for \$8 and again, no frills.

### Wednesday, July 25

Monthly Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: no cologne! No sneakers! Leather boots, latex, uniforms, jock straps. You WILL be sniffed! Call 863-HEAD if you need more info.

The Ring presents "Fun With Liquid Latex Cockware" at their secret gathering place. Doors 1830 to 1900 only. No one admitted after 1900. For details, email to: the\_ring@ix.netcom.com.

### Thursday, July 26

Basket auction at Daddy's Bar for the Northern California Drummer and Drummer Boy travel fund (for whoever wins!). Always a fun event and some

great bargains. Be kind, be generous, and be supportive!

Cigar Party at Castlebar, with a \$20 cover charge and many amenities included. Doors open from 2200, and the event goes to 0300 next morning. For more info, email to: steve@backdoor.com.

### Friday, July 27

Leather Daddy XIX will be chosen tonight at the SF Eagle when the \$7 beer/soda bust kicks off at 2100 and runs until midnight. Keith Truitt will pass the sash to a successor, and Daddy's Boy Bob Dern gets a new daddy. This one is always fun, so plan to be there.

### Weekend July 27-29

Thunder in the Mountains in Denver. Pay a mere \$115 for the weekend package. In addition to many play parties, demos, and seminars, there's the big Mr. and Ms. Rocky Mountain Leather contest, an award-winning leather event!

### Saturday, July 28

The Bare Chest Calendar Reunion Party at the Eagle with guys coming in from all over the world to reminisce and celebrate their volunteerism since 1985. It all begins around Noon so be there!

Mr. Northern California Drummer and Drummer Boy contest at 174 King Street. Hordes of people from out of town this weekend. Who will carry the banner for us in Florida in October? This one is a must!

The 15 Association monthly play party takes place at the usual venue (it's a secret!). You know the rules and the location. If not, ask around.

### Sunday, July 30

The Dore Alley Fair happens from 1100 to 1800 in the said alley, and along Folsom St. between 9th & 10th streets. The 2002 Bare Chest Calendar will debut, with limited editions on sale. Be the first in your gang to have one!



## PORN

# Smells like teen cock

by John F. Karr

I was wondering why there's so often a hidden observer watching people have sex in Falcon movies. To me, that connotes furtive behavior. In terms of filmcraft, I thought such scene-splitting was merely an easy way for a director to provide cutaways for editing. And there was John Rutherford, explaining in his Director's Comments on the audio track of the *Out of Athens* DVD, that quite simply, "It's sexier when someone's watching."

Well, I don't quite agree: I'm the person watching. And I

## Karnal Knowledge

don't like the intensity of my view being diluted by digressions to secondary players. But I appreciated Rutherford's preference. In porn, good filmmaking can reasonably be secondary to indulgence of personal proclivity. That's what we're looking for in porn: our personal proclivity illustrated. On the issue of observers, I just hadn't entertained another person's point of view.

As I continue my survey of recent DVD reissues, I present to you *First Time*, from The Dolphin International Collection ([www.DolphinVideos.com](http://www.DolphinVideos.com)). If you like your boys rosy-cheeked, undeveloped, uncut and young — and I mean just the legal side of chicken — the five volumes of this series, which were shot in the environs of St. Petersburg, Russia, should do the trick for you. If they left me uninvolved, perhaps I just wasn't seeing through your eyes.

So what's on view here? Well, the economy's not the only thing that's soft in Russia. Erections are rather wobbly, too. That's a surprise in typically hormone-driven young kids. Maybe it's something in the water. The boys are somewhat lackadaisical in their love-making, too. If you were partial to these kids, you might find this gentleness of approach romantic. But they seem to be making out because there's nothing better to do. And even when they move from the chilly woods and the overcast beach to their sparsely furnished rooms, they tend to wear lots of clothes while necking, as if cold. Seems they're having an

energy crisis, too. Ah, yes: low energy. You may find it sweet; I find it tentative and mild. If this is homosexual love in Russia, I'm glad I get mine in America.

Only half the cast of Stable DVD's *The Crystal Tunnel* are younger boys, but their whiff of teen sex lingers. I've always felt that porn was a pro-sex public service announcement. But this movie's an anti-drug PSA disguised as porn.

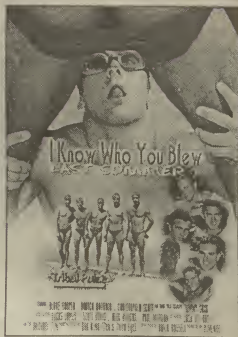
*Crystal Tunnel* is a curious mixture of heavy-handed anti-speed propaganda and some pretty good sex. It tries to

deglamorize meth by making the characters

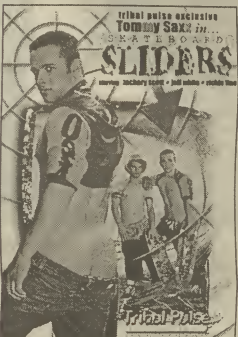
venal and betraying. As soon as we dislike them, we see them having fabulous sex while snorting abnormal amounts of speed. Sensing its own confusion, the movie confirms the danger of speed by throwing the lead character into a morose coma (and I bet you thought comas were lacking in personality), and then ends with a tedious dream sequence depicting his wretched state. If all that speed wasn't enough to make your hard-on limp, this clumsily executed and hokey finale will finish it off. Still, you've got to applaud the movie's intentions. And you'll like much of the sex, which features Spike at his spikiest, randy Rick Allen demonstrating in a memorable scene how horny abandon and romantic love can co-exist, and eager youngsters like Tony Cummings, Marco Antonio and Chip Knoll. ([www.stablestud.com](http://www.stablestud.com))

## Pulse beat

The last two DVDs come from Tribal Pulse, a company where boys in their late teens cop a little attitude. They may be young, but they got swagger. *I Know Who You Blew Last Summer* is a generally tasty tale of blackmail and intrigue among the members of a swim team. The boys look super in their size-too-small Speedos, and they're almost always wet. The movie's got lots of gnarly sex, as the rowdy athletes continually mistake practice sessions for orgies. Svelte Tommy Saxx tops the bill, and a number of his teammates top him. There's excellent camerawork, and a groovy under-



water frolic to end the show. *Skateboard Sliders*, a happily-replayable movie, is pungent with the odor of teen cock. It finds a number of teen slackers taking a break from rolling around on their boards to roll around on each other. Typical of adolescent glands, their sex is both urgent and joyful. Tommy Saxx works in Zachary Scott's skateboard shop, and secretly lusts after him. The



other boys hang out in the shop because the backroom is always popping. After a winning succession of fuckbuddy scenes for tasty boys like Jeff White, Richie Fine, the especially lanky and long-dicked Bobby Golden, and the aptly named Johnny Thrust, contrasted by such estimable "elders" as Paul Morgan and Mack Reynolds, the movie ends with a scene of high romance, as the shop owner finally admits he's got the hots for his clerk. The boss, Scott, looks like most of the cast, as long and sleek as a skateboard, taut and tan from vigorous outdoor activity. [www.tribalpulse.com](http://www.tribalpulse.com) ▼

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Wed. July 25th **LEATHER BUDDIES**

photo © Greg Day, model: Cole Tucker, [www.mandreams.com](http://www.mandreams.com)

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

mer and Drummer Boy competition will take place on Saturday, July 28 at 174 King Street, the night before the Dore Alley Fair.

On Thursday, July 26, there will be a basket auction for the travel fund of the eventual winners at Daddy's Bar at 2000. All the Northern California contestants will put together an array of goodies to be auctioned off that night. The pre-judging interviews will take place on Friday evening at a SoMa location. The judges are Rod Wood, Mark Brand, Skeeter Wildman, International Mr. Drummer Daniel Clark, International Drummer Boy Richie Black, "Blackheart" and Mark Brand.

On Saturday at 1900, the doors swing open for the contest and show with former International Slave Tom Stice emceeing and entertainment by Lonnie Tuck. The entire production will be dedicat-

ed to the memory of Daddy Philip Turner.

Tickets are on sale now at Daddy's Bar and other locations. As of my deadline, There will be four men and three boys competing for the titles.

In Sacramento on Saturday night at the Bolt, the Mr. Sacramento Drummer 2001 contest was staged. They had previously selected their Drummer Boy (Boy Jackson), so a hastily assembled group of judges was installed, the contest was emceed by Mischa Katin and when it was all over, Abe Feuerstein won the right to compete for the Northern California Drummer 2001 title.

In St. Petersburg, Florida, the Florida Regional Drummer and Boy contests took place at the SunCoast Resort Hotel on Saturday night. IM Drummer 99 Fraser Picard emceed the contest. Judges Mike Zuhl, Mark D'Aleo, Efrain Nunez, Woodie Barnes, Daniel Clark, Tom Stice and Richie Black put their scores to-

gether to name Jose Bermudez Florida Mr. Drummer 2001, and Shawn Casey is Florida Drummer Boy 2001. Both are from Orlando, Florida and sponsored by the Full Moon Saloon.

Yes, the Drummer Finals are looking good. A few more regions are yet to be heard from, including New England, Great Lakes, Northwest, Northern California and the Southwest. Mr. Southern California Drummer and Boy will be "chosen" by the sponsors in the Southland to compete in Florida. Stay tuned.

## Miscellaneous

Eric Bernier's "Boot Camp" benefit at the Edge two weeks ago raised almost \$2,200 for the chosen beneficiary, and he wants to thank you all for your support and generosity!

I stand corrected: The Mid-Atlantic Drummer Boy's correct name is Mark Greene, not Mike Greene as reported here last week. Sorry! ▼



# OUT&ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon

### Silent Ground

I don't know what in the world was going on during the last couple of weeks. Truly, I got about as far as a body/mind/spirit can get from the unreal, mediated world, and I did it by escaping to tiny Read Island up in the Georgia Strait, squeezed between Vancouver Island and the west coast of British Columbia, Canada. That's temperate rainforest country, spread across an archipelago of large and small islands dotted with fishing villages, thick with ferns and moss amid dense stands of cedar, fir, spruce, hemlock, maple, and multitudinous wild blossoms. Bald eagles soared. Enormous trout leaped. Salmonberries ripened along the dirt road. I gorged myself on everything.

Much clearcutting of tall timber has taken place even in these remote isles, but the scarring effect has not yet unduly damaged the scenery; the overwhelming feel of the place is of a barely touched wilderness of natural beauty, bounty and serenity.

No, I did not pack in a tent and rough it Boy Scout style, though I wouldn't mind doing it that way. Instead, I devoted two weeks to intense meditation, Tai Chi and Chi Kung practice, eurythmic dancing, breath therapy, and body-energy manipulation at a beautiful, low-key retreat called Silent Ground, run by two masters of Taoist healing practices, Christer Ekstrom and Minke de Vos.

Sound like a vacation? It was more than that: it was a clearing out of all the grit and grime of industrial living. Like most folks I like to occasionally knock back a few drinks, dance the nights away, and savor sweet sex. I recharge myself (when I think about it) by ingesting semi-healthy vegiburgers and perhaps some wheat grass or fruit juice. All the while I do my best to put up stoically with traffic roar, sirens, radios, screams and shouts, the occasional gunshot, and other city chaos. Unless we're particularly attentive to our bodies, such routines can leave us off-kilter, feeling negative, and increasingly unable to generate the internal energy — chi — necessary to cope with the demands of the so-called civilized world.

One of the many health techniques I learned at Silent Ground was how to conserve my sexual energy, which I'd never really considered a priority. Yet it made sense: so often we men and women expend much of our energy through uncontrolled, sloppy orgasms (my words, not Minke or Christer's, but I expect they'd agree). We just let everything fly, rather than taking charge of our orgasms. Climaxes don't always have to end in a spurt or splatter and a draining away of chi. That good 'ol feeling can be contained and spread deliciously throughout our entire bodies. Such sexual practices are hardly secret, but they demand great attention, more than is possible, perhaps, with only a few classes.

Thus, the glorious isolation and strict (but gentle and immensely graceful) daily practices at Silent Ground, where deep attention to the inner workings of the body and spirit results in the maximum possible conservation and wise use of one's natural, goddess-given life-force. ▼

Contact Silent Ground at Box 28, Surge Narrows B.C., Canada V0P 1W0. Email: siground@island.net. Website: www.silentground.com

"Blending with the Shadows," 2000, by John Dugdale, part of Photo San Francisco at Herbst Pavilion. See Thursday.



## Fri 20

### Carta

"Eat Dinner for Charity" with your hosts Emperor Tom Basch and Empress Chablis. Ten percent of your bill goes to the Monarch's Charity Fund. Then, enjoy a 7pm evening tour of the nearly completed GLBT Community Center, just up the street. RSVP required. Carta, 1760 Market St. Info: 922-0422.

### Embarcadero Center Cinema

The opening night party and screening: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, the acclaimed film based on the musical about a transgender rocker. With a live outdoor performance by gender-defying glam rock band, Blue Period. \$9 for film; Blue Period play free at 5:30 & 6:45pm. Film at 7:30 & 10pm. One Embarcadero Center (Battery & Clay), Promenade Level. Info: 352-0810; www.Landmark-Theatres.com; www.blue-period.com.

### Luna Sea Theater

The Third Annual DykeDrama Festival showcases short plays by and about lesbians, including *Like That and Dig a Little Deeper* by Dr. Shirlene Holmes, *Out For Lunch* by Amy Kirk, and *The Delivery* by Claudia L. Vierra Allen, with a cast of lesbians of color performing passionate, sexy and funny works about coming out and being out. Part II (July 27-Aug. 11) will feature three other plays. \$11-14. 8pm. 2940 16th St. #216-C. Info: www.lunasea.org.

### New Conservatory Theatre

*Forever Plaid*, the 1950s-style revue by Stuart Ross, directed by Earl Weaver. This goofy piece centers on four

young, eager guys singing '50s pop songs in close harmony and squabbling boyishly over the smallest intonations. \$16-\$32. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru July 22. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org.

### Theatre Rhinoceros

*Girl Meets Girl*, by Maddy Alexander and Sally Stover, directed by Sally Stover, is a sizzling lesbian comedy about falling in and out of love. It follows the lives of six women in San Francisco searching for love and sex in the new millennium. With Zehra Berkman, Sarah Gaboury, Megan Harding, Connie Noble, Venetia Porter and Ruby Strange. Contains nudity and strong language. \$20-\$25. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. Thru Aug. 5. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Tix: 861-5079; www.ticketweb.com.

### Castro Theatre

*Can't Stop the Music*, the disco extravaganza on film featuring the Village People, Bruce Jenner in shorts, Steve Guttenberg in shorts and a lot more guys in shorts, is the penultimate Allen Carr production, (second only to *Xanadu*, perhaps) and directed by Nancy Walker. Disco icon Thelma Houston will sing live. Other acts include the fabulous Connie Champagne and Arturo Galster, as well as a Mr. Macho Man Contest. \$22.50. 7pm. Castro at Market. Tix at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro. Info: 863-0611; email: hostess@best.com.

### Cowell Theater

Summerfest/Dance 2001 showcases outstanding Bay Area choreographic talents, with dances by Laura Elaine Ellis, Mel Wong, Lea Wolf, Robert Moses, Rande Paufve, and Michael Lowe. \$13-15. 8pm. Thru Sun. at 2pm. Fort Mason Center (Bay at Buchanan Sts). Info: 441-3687.

### Alcazar Theatre

Eve Ensler's critically acclaimed *The Vagina Monologues*, which explores the humor and mystery of women's lives from a gynocological perspective, includes in this last Bay Area cast LA Law's Jill Eikenberry, JoBeth Williams of *Poltergeist* fame, and Diane Amos (whose bio says she was raised by lesbians). Thru Sun. \$30-50. 8pm. (5pm Sat., 3pm & 7pm Sun.) 650 Geary St. Info/tix: 433-9500; www.theatreon-the-square.com.

### Diego Rivera Theatre

City College Theatre Arts and Music departments present a fully staged environmental production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, the Demon Barber of Fleet

Street. The 1979 musical won nine Tony Awards, but unlike the production at the SF Symphony, this will not include Patti LuPone. \$5-10. Fri. & Sat. thru July 28 at 8pm, & July 29 at 2pm. City College of SF campus, 50 Phelan Ave. Info: 239-3132.

### AHP Services Center

*Surviving Homophobia: Loving Ourselves and Each Other*, a workshop that explores issues of HIV, body image, societal acceptance/rejection, and enhances strategies to help gay and bisexual men survive and thrive. Free; reservations required. 6:30-9:15pm. 1930 Market St. Info: 476-6448, ext. 1.

### Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon presents a concert staging of *The Cat and the Fiddle*, Jerome Kern and Otto Harbach's neglected 1931 musical, with such standards as "The Night Was Made for Love" and "She Didn't Say Yes." Directed by Greg MacKellan; music direction by Barbara Day Turner. Set in Brussels, the musical tells of the attraction between a Romanian classical composer and a vivacious American jazz composer. Will the pair ever make beautiful music together? \$25. Fri.-Sun. (\$19 seniors/students); \$22 on Thu. Thru Sun. 215 Jackson (btwn Battery & Front). Tix/info: 255-8207; www.42ndStMoon.com

### Exit Theatre

Two philosophers trapped in a map store end up discussing how they face the AIDS crisis in different ways in Steven Dietz' Ionesco-esque two-man play, *Lonely Planet*, which won both the Dramalogue Award and the PEN USA Award in Drama. Fri. & Sat. thru Aug. 4, w/ Mon. shows July 23 & 30. \$12-18. 156 Eddy St. Info: 673-3847.

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace Artist-in-Residence Duy Nguyen presents *Men In Love and Dimensions*, two works in progress about gay Asian American men's experiences in San Francisco amid racial and gender tensions. \$5-10. 8pm. 1519 Mission at 11th. Info: 554-0402.

### La Val's Subterranean Theatre, Berkeley

Joe Orton's hilarious farce, *Loot*, enjoys an energetic staging by the Shotgun Players. While pointing bars at the absurdity of British government, the police, and the theatre, Orton, the famously murdered gay playwright, weaves a Monty Python-esque tale of two schoolboy lovers

whose aunt's corpse keeps getting mixed up with a sack of stolen money. A nosy detective and a scheming sexpot nurse make this an authentic trip to the mod '60s deceptively silly, but quite anarchic \$10-15. 8pm. Sun. at 7pm. Thru Aug. 25. 1834 Euclid Ave. (at Hearst), Berkeley. Info: (510) 655.0813; www.shotgunplayers.org.

### Magic Theatre

*Betty Rules: A Guy From Atlantic Wants To Sign Us!* offers a kicky, irreverent musical from the offbeat and somewhat sapphic girl-rock group Betty, recounting their sometimes-rocky rise to cult status. Directed by Michael Grief, this rock 'n' roll reenactment of the group's history intersperses song with spoken-word poetry, and features sisters Elizabeth and Amy Ziff and statuesque Alyson Palmer. \$8-\$30. 8:30pm Wed.-Sat.; 2:30pm Sun. Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center (Marina Blvd. at Buchanan St.). Tix/info: 441-8822; www.magictheatre.org; www.hellobetty.com

### Next Stage

*Burn This*, Lanford Wilson's 1987 comedic drama, is about about Anna, a dancer, and Larry, her gay roommate, who are mourning the deaths of his lover, Dominic, and her dancing partner, Robbie. When Pale, Robbie's nearly identical brother visits, their lives are torn by questions about creativity, love and life. Produced by Bare Bones Theatre Company. \$15. 8pm. Fri. Sun. Thru Aug. 12. The Next Stage, 1620 Gough St. (at Bush). (415) 359-0880.

### Space Gallery

Opening art reception/CD-release celebration: *Broads*, a showcase of new visual work by Carolyn Haas, who paints Ohio landscapes in oil, and Sookie Koban, a master of enamel paintings; also the release party for Juanita MORE!'s hot new CD, *Self-Portrait*. The divine Ms. MORE! also DJs for the queer-art cruisers. 7-10pm. 1141 Polk St. Info: www.spaceproject.com

### Studio @ Rhino

Sex-Club Shakespeare and Theatre Rhinoceros present a lurid, pulp adaptation of *All's Well That Ends Well*, a rarely seen comedy with a caustic view of human sexuality that has been puzzled over for centuries. This adaptation by Val Hendrickson (who also directs) pushes the bawdy to modern extremes to create a voyeuristic romp with a little something for all tastes and predilections. \$15. 8:30pm. Thru-Sun. thru Aug. 4. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079.

## Sat 21

### Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

*Appalachian Overdrive*, envigorating performances by the Barbary Coast Cloggers, the only men's clogging dance company in the U.S. Featuring traditional clogging and step dancing as well as tap, with special appearances by Pacific Coast clogging champion Barry Welch and tap/step dancer extraordinaire Ira Bernstein. It's like a musical version of a Walt Whitman gold digger poem. \$15-\$25. 8pm. Also on Sun., July 22 at 2pm. 3301 Lyon St. (at Bay St.). Info/tix: 441-3687; www.barbarycoast.org; www.ticketweb.com.

### Integral Yoga Institute

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\$9. 11am-1pm each Sat. Integral yoga Institute, 770 Dolores. 821-1117.

### Live Oak Theatre, Berkeley

The famous Broadway couple Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine made *The Great Sebastians* a Broadway hit in the '30s. Actors Ensemble of Berkeley celebrates its 44th season with a revival of this campy classic about a pair of actors performing as a mind-reading duo. When a Communist general invites them to his villa to probe the minds of his staff for traitors, hilarity ensues. \$10. 8pm. Thru Aug. 11. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck (at Berryman), Berkeley. (510) 528-5620.

### Russian River Resort, Guerneville

Pool Parties and benefits abound through Lazy Bear Weekend at the Triple R, including a cabaret performance by Sharon McNight. \$15-20. Russian River Resort, 4th & mill sts., Guerneville (800) 41-RE-SORT.

### SF Performing Arts Library

Tony Award winners Patti LuPone and George Hearn join director Lonny Price in a conversation about their work in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, which will be performed this weekend at the SF Symphony (see Fri.) \$20. 2pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. 4th fl. (415) 255-4800.

### Union Square Playhouse

Late Nite Catechism stars Maripat Donovan as "Sister," in the hilarious one-nun show that explains the mysteries of Catholicism with wit and wisdom. *The Catholic Register* approves, so it can't be too sacreligious. \$39. 8pm. Wed.-Sun. Sat. at 5 & 8pm. Sun. at 3pm. 340 Mason St. Info: (866) 386-6968; www.latenitecatechism.com

## Sun 22

### Eagle Tavern

"Exodus," in which the Harvey Milk Institute bids farewell to beloved founder Jonathan Katz, long-time Professor and Chair of the GLB Studies Dept. at City College, board member of countless queer community organizations, and ardent activist. Katz is taking a new job as Associate Professor in the Art Dept. at SUNY Stony



The Barbary Coast Cloggers step brightly in *Appalachian Overdrive* at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. See Saturday.

Brook. Help pay tribute to Katz's decade of queer community service. Free (donations to the Harvey Milk Institute encouraged). 2pm. 12th & Harrison sts. Info: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org.

### Studio Z

*Tongues and Savage/Love* are two intimate poetic plays created and originally performed by acclaimed playwright/directors Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin. Subdermal Theater performs the two works in a limited run. \$10. 7pm. Also July 29. 38 Mason St. Info: 722-4807.

### SF Hiking Club

Join outdoorsy types for an 8-mile hike through Chabot Park Bort Meadow Ramble in the serene and picturesque East Bay Hills. Meet 10am at the Rockridge BART escalator. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

## Mon 23

### Theatre Rhinoceros

*Greater America*, Katherine Murphy's absurdist one-act

black comedy about the sexual oddities of a family living in an amusement park, receives a staged reading. Produced by First Seen, a Bay Area playwrights' collective. \$7. 7pm. 2926 16th St. Info/tix: 841-1262.

## Tue 24

### A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books

Tom Spanbauer reads from and signs copies of his new gay bestseller, *In the City of Shy Hunters*, about a man who escapes a small town for Manhattan, and romances a volatile drag queen. Free. 7:30pm. Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Ave. Info: 441-6670.

### The Fillmore

Indigo Girls perform their soulful and somewhat sapphic folk songs, along with opening acts Michelle Malone and Peeps Show. \$38.50 8pm. 1805 Geary at Fillmore. 346-6000. www.thefillmore.com. Also Wed. & Thu., with opening acts Rose Poleciani (Wed.) and Malone & Peeps Show (Thu.) at The Mountain Winery, 14831 Pierce Road, Saratoga. \$35. 7:30pm. 421-TIXS. www.mountainwinery.com

### Red Vic Movie House

In *Live Nude Girls Unite*, comic, lesbian activist and stripper Julia Query collaborates with filmmaker Vicky Funari to recount the struggle to unionize the Lustylady strip club. Also on Wed., when the Red Vic celebrates its 21st anniversary. \$4.50-6.50. 7:30 & 9:15pm (also 2pm on Wed.). 1727 Haight St. Info: 668-3994; www.redvicmoviehouse.com.

## Wed 25

### Artseal Gallery

Vintage, contemporary and physique photographers Martin Elkort, Jim Steinhart and High Holland's photos are displayed, along with other striking images from the 20th century. Tues. - Fri. 10am-6pm & Sat. 10am-5pm. Thru Aug. 1847 Larkin

St. (at Pacific). Info: 567-3523; www.artseal.com

## Thu 26

### La Moonè

The Dave Parker Trio plays live jazz through the evening at this swank new restaurant and bar in the heart of the Castro. La Moonè Restaurant & Bar, 4072 18th St. (at Castro St.). Info/reservations: 355-1999.

### Herbst Pavilion

Opening reception: Photo San Francisco, organized by the Stephen Cohen Gallery, displays thousands of contemporary and classic images by renowned artists Diane Arbus, Eugene Atget, Man Ray, Robert Mapplethorpe, Weegee and many others. \$35 (benefits SOMA Partnership, a training program for homeless people). 6-9pm. Exhibit runs Thu.-Sat., noon-7pm & Sun., noon-6pm. \$12 per day or \$20 for 3-day pass; four panels with noted curators and artists on collecting are \$5-\$10. Fort Mason Center. Info: 552-9201; www.photosanfrancisco.net

### Yugen/Noh Space

Joe Besecker's comedic sex romp, *Mary in the Hydrangea Bush*, pairs a gay and straight version of the morning after a complicated menage-a-quatre between two couples. \$13-\$20. 8pm, with Sun. matinees at 2pm. Thru Aug. 19. 2840 Mariposa St. Info/tix: 626-6715.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

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The cast of the Third Annual DykeDrama Festival gather at Luna Sea. See Friday.





# BAR TALK



photo by Steven Underhill

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**Togos @16th in Portero June 5**  
1:30pm you were having lunch with a friend and I was having lunch with a friend. Both of us too shy to talk. You: plaid shirt and khakis. Me: clean shaven head blue sweater. Saw you again walking with your friend headed toward the garage. Call. ☎ 71378

**Me!s Diner @ Metreon Fri. Nite 6/8/01.** I watched your newspaper and stuff- caught you staring, but was too shy- wanna meet? Yes, I glanced back at you as you were exiting. You also looked back! ☎ 71379

**Peet's Coffee @ 16th-Thu-6/14 9A**  
You, handsome, short brown hair, gorgeous eyes. Me, tall, blonde hair and an eye for you. We couldn't stop staring! Call me. ☎ 71400

**Boy In Yellow Sneakers**  
Thursday, June 14th, 11pm. Both got on M train at Powell. I got off at Church. Those lips deserve to be kissed. Put down your book and call. ☎ 71401

**Walgreens, Tues. June 19, @7:50AM**  
Me: VGL BM discreet, smooth, 5'11", 180lbs. clean-cut. Built to perfection, spotted 2 WM. First, tan b/b, 5'11", 175lbs. Second, 5'10", 160lbs. b/b, red baseball cap, tan, greathead. There was a awesome connection. Too shy to say "What's up!" Would like to connect. ☎ 71402

**USF Dinner 5/16 St. Francis**  
Chatted with you at elevator. Elmer. Would like to see you for a drink- John ☎ 71427

**~Steamworks 6/16 Cute Asian~**  
Casey- you came into my room, had great time- you came back as I was leaving- Wish I'd given my phone #. Would like encounter- Me- older bottom, grey hair- Call. ☎ 71428

**Red Grill Sunday 6/10**  
You, handsome, tattoos on arms, corner table against wall. Me, same side of next table. Didn't turn to stare, but took you in just the same. Would like better look. ☎ 71429

**Dave Orange Twist Smirnoff 625**  
I served you that drink on Gay Pride Sunday. We talked, but would of liked to talk later. Can we talk & meet. ☎ 71430

**"You Are Sooo Cute!" I Said As...**  
I stood next to your seat on F Market Line 6/24 Sun afternoon. I got off, at Powell. You blew me a kiss! Let's talk! ☎ 71439

**Officer Bill**  
Pride Parade 6/24. We spoke a few times. You: getting your wisdom teeth pulled. Me: offered post op drinks. Interested? (I am.) ☎ 71440

**Gave You My Number At Reunion**  
You wore a white t-shirt, gave you my card. Montgomery St. Muni 6/26, you ask me about my weekend. Would love to talk. Call. ☎ 71441

**July 1 Most Fabulous Story**  
You: Dark hair, purple shirt, white pants. Me: blonde hair, white sweater, black jeans. We checked each other out/ smiled several times. I think you're really cute. Coffee, drinks, dinner? ☎ 71459

**Cute Latin Busboy**  
July 3-Harvey's Cafe Soma- Me Blk w/2 guys, girl eating. You have a beautiful smile & eyes. Missed opportunity to say hi, would like to meet you. ☎ 71460

**June 10th, Supershuttle**  
You- attending friend's wedding in Africa via Amsterdam. Asked about Bernal Hts. Me business trip in Az. Discussed changes in S.F. Pleasant conversation. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71461

**(Joe) Of Alameda, In SF..**  
We met at the gym. I told you how beautiful you were. I gave you my phone number. My dream is to hear from you. Your eyes were so intense. ☎ 71462

**Sparky's Happy Hour 6/23 8pm**  
You sitting alone under "The Gay Johnnie Sign", me sent a beer over to you. At a dollar each, I'd like to buy you three more. ☎ 71463

**The Sexiest Guy In Town**  
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Be safe! ☎ SAFE

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Seeking In-Charge Top**  
You: 30-55 yo top, thick, enjoys head, plowing butt, aggressive in bed. Me: good looking, White, in-shape, 44 yo bottom ready to service on a regular basis. Both HIV-, available evenings, into role play, light SM and our imagination. Just for fun or possibly more. ☎ 71380

**Poz GBM ISO Vers GWM Bottom**  
6ft 38 180lbs. ISO affectionate submissive GWM/GLM. Prefer slim, short, small build. ☎ 71381

**ISO Mature Men**  
Bearded GWM in SF 60, 5'9" 155# seeks masculine healthy GWM, GLM GBM over 40 for mutual J/D N/S N/D moustache/beard A+. ☎ 71382

**More Than Sex...**  
Want companion. Go out- not into "scene". Handsome, fun-loving, nice body not gymbuffed. Affectionate, likes to be serviced. 45, HIV-, 5'10", 175lbs, br/bl, moustache. Prefer younger but open. ☎ 71383

**Some People? How About Us!!**  
Attractive GLM 43, 168lb 5'9", versatile in-shape. You be similar. Plan (A) let's talk, Plan (B) let's meet, Plan (C) let's do it. ☎ 71384

**3Nite Weekend On Sonoma Ranch**  
45 miles from 66 bridge. GWM husky burley 6'2" Rancher, 55yr., 225# buzzed s/p flat top, beard seeks honest, healthy common sense man companion. Ability to read, write, talk, and think. Important. ☎ 71385

**Boy The Sea**  
Late 30's, furry butt and pecs, 5'10", 165#, central coast guy, who visits city often, seeks tall tops, HIV neg. preferred. ☎ 71403

**GWM Professional, Relocating**  
To Bay Area, seeks long-term relationship/friends. I am an avid movie goer, lover of nature. Love walks in the Muir Woods, by the ocean, dining out, travel, cats, dance and ballet. I have a fetish for nylon/spandex tights and panty hose. Caucasian/Asian/Hispanics please. ☎ 71404

**ISO Creative Beau**  
Requirements: wit, artistry, appreciation of unsaid, no gym memberships, no gay pride, no company boys, no tattoos/piercings. Me: writer, 35, 5'10", 155 boyish stylist. ☎ 71405

**Salute!**  
The creative life the life! 40 blue eyed European seeks Frenchman aged 20's-40's for friendship or more. Let's meet in San Francisco and or Europe. ☎ 71406

**Oakland Animal/Plant Lover**  
Empathetic, easygoing, playful, communicative, sensual. Passion for nature, cuddling, home life. Seek easygoing homeowner. I'm youthful, 53, athletic, straight acting, hairy, 6'2", 185lbs. Very goodlooking, blue eyes, shaved head, big dark moustache. ☎ 71407

**Positive On Peninsula ISO LTR**  
42yr HIV+ 6'2", 200#, blonde, blue looking for possible LTR or just friends, like, movies, walks, quiet times at home, beach, not into bar scene. N/S, N/D, call me. ☎ 71408

**Art, Photography, Books**  
Berkeley artist late 60's, passionate, active, healthy, 5'9", 150lbs. 33w. Seeks GWM/GAM slight build 25-40 as ongoing sensual friends. ☎ 71409

**Boysish Cute GAM To Date**  
GAM 30's slim, nice personality, nice looking, masculine boy next door type seeks similar good looking masculine GWM 40's or younger to date poss. LTR. ☎ 71410

**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 71431

**GWM Seeking LTR**  
Attractive 43, 6'4", 195 poz in-shape looking for a GAM 30 to 50 to date or more? I am low maintenance, no-nonsense, honest and easy going. Hobbies include traveling, cooking, foreign film, theater and the outdoors. Let's meet and see if we click. ☎ 71442

## GWM Seeks GAM

Attractive, warm, friendly 36 years old GWM seeks 35 to 55yo Japanese, Chinese or Korean for dating. Gentlemen with glasses preferred. Please call. ☎ 71443

**Sexy Top Seeks Hot Bottom**  
Masculine, passionate, lean, HIV-, GWM, 40, 6', 170lbs, is looking for an enthusiastic, in-shape (slim to muscular), HIV-, bottom, 25-45, any race for regular, intense, safe fucking. ☎ 71444

**HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans**  
Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71445

**Buffed 26 Horny Orlando Stud**  
Visiting SF July 20- Aug. 30. Looking for guys into rubber butt banging. You be: 18-36 buffed versatile, hard, and insatiable. ☎ 71464

**Spanish Lover**  
Wild, Charming, Romantic, Scandinavian desires 24-44 Latin guy. Hot blue eyes smile, moustache. Slim, physically fit. 40. Not a games/bars player. Snuggly. ☎ 71465

**Chubby GWM 66 5'8", 185lbs HIV-**  
Brown/blue retired enjoys: sitcoms, walks, movies, tv, music, quiet time at home, conversation, theatre, kissing, cooking, hiking, hugging, N/S, N/D it drink. If you like these things, call me please. Be serious. No games. ☎ 71466

**"Are You Out There!"**  
Me: 33, 6', 160# HIV- attractive, healthy enjoy movies, dinner and trying new things. I'm simple no drama, no drugs. You same let's meet. ☎ 71467

**-Come And Dream With Me-**  
Health Haw/Filp 42 5'5" 145 smooth HIV+ btm. Seeking masculine top. For friendship, romance and hot nasty sex too. I'm good hearted, romantic, affection, sensitive but strong, responsible & relationship oriented. Great parts of life are movies, music, and traveling and great sex. N/S, N/D. So if you are masc. top-man in shape or stocky, built (tummy ok) 5'7" up and 35-50yrs. Let's cuddle and dream together. Sorry no games played let's leave them for Pac-Bell Park. LTR possible. ☎ 71468

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Boysish Bottom Seeks Tall WM Top**  
Slender, attractive WM, 29, 5'9", quite shapely butt, sexy anus- seeks tall, fit, well endowed WM top who loves sexy ass. I enjoy pleasing, submitting, crotch worship, tight anal sex. ☎ 71386

**Married / Bi Male A+**  
Very attractive gay male couple, mid 30's, HIV-, fit healthy, (slim GAM & athletic GWM), seek handsome masculine, clean fit, healthy, hung WGM/BM for discreet encounters. ☎ 71387

**Homoeotic...**  
Mature male bachelor likes sexually dominant in-the-closet males for sophisticated erotic encounters. Married, Bi, ok. Discreet SF location. ☎ 71388

**Hot Bottoms Wanted By Dick Top**  
57 yr old White top want 1 White, Latino or Middle Eastern bottoms to fuck. I'm 57 yrs old 6'0" 160lbs drk brn hair, glasses, 9" dick. ☎ 71389

**Hobo Homo!!!!!!**  
You've seen me on Market, The Lion... Full beard, wide shoulders, hairy chest, tiny behind, sandals bare feet, sitting on my bottom/frecks. Let's get together, safe fun, more. ☎ 71390

**A1 Oral Service Delivered- SF**  
SF GWM delivers A1 oral service to trim, mature guys who need head, once or regular, with no reciprocation. HIV-, out only. Deep throat. ☎ 71391

**Mature Masculine Submissive**  
Seeking 40+ dominant for D/S BDSM play. Sub is experienced, intelligent ex-precis same. ☎ 71392

**Oral Master**  
GWM late 40's ISO over 7" any race/age. Long slow deep downtown SF, uncult a real plus. ☎ 71393

**Hot GWM Seeks Hung GBM 4 Fun**  
I'm 29, 6'1" and VGL bottom. Workout 4x a week, so I'm in good shape. Looking to meet well hung GBM. I'm HIV+ and open to threeways. ☎ 71411

**Ready And Willing**  
Christian GWM 28, 6'2", 190lbs. energetic goodlooking seeking down to earth male who wants a solid friendship, possible relationship. ☎ 71412

**Bottom Visiting 4 Pride Week?**  
Mature, but potent Black top will plug you in your hotel room. Must have full name. Masculine, experienced, mature bottoms only. Downtown SF and East Bay areas. Hotels only. ☎ 71413

**Mature Hot Manpussey Wanted**  
38yo well hung uncut BM ISO talented holes for long plowings at your place (45-60). Looks less important than ability. Black, aroma, videos, expert oral are pluses. ☎ 71414

**PR Move**  
Bearded WM, 42, seeks "good relations" with athletic Puerto Rican man, preferably with full, muscular buttocks. I'm easy-going, imaginative, generous. Interested? ☎ 71415

**I Want Asian Piss!**  
Seeking horny Asian & Latin dudes in their 20's and 30's who would like to pee on a cute White boy, early 30's. You can drain yourself in my mouth. ☎ 71433

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

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Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
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Others ☐

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Name  Daytime Telephone   
Address  Evening Telephone   
City  State  Zip

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR TALK, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103



**I Want To Get Laid**

Tall, GWM, 40's, bi/bi, bottom ISO hung top into anal play, nipples, and mutual B/D's. Race/age/build unimportant. Tall, hairy, uncult + -. No B/S. 71416

**Role Play - Hot Fantasy Scenes**

Hot buddy looking for buddy with good imagination to play out hot scenes: Homework buddies, tutor-student, doctor-patient, brothers. Open to other scenes. 38, 5'11", 175, hairy, Downtown SF. 714147

**Cross Country Bicycle Tourist**

Goodlooking, healthy GWM 48 seek buddies across the USA. Love sex, nudism, and outdoors. I love to suck black cock outdoors! 714148

**FF Butts Wanted**

I enjoy playing with an ass that likes fingers and hands or toys fist fucking tapes o.k. too your place 5'8", 185. 714149

**Anonymous Deep Throat Head**

Bi WM HIV-40's dominant very masculine likes getting off down an expert deep throat in dark private places if your HIV- submissive in shape and hungry. 7141432

**Milkman Looking For Good Gumbo**

If you're a "toothless tiger" and can deep-throat a big head while "gummin'" the base of a thick shaft, I'm your man. 6', 170, 43, laid-back man. Long chew sessions of real turn on! 7141434

**Weekday Morning JO 8am 12n**

Looking for men to stroke with or just watch/help me with my morning load. I like nitro, spanking, fantasies. You be 40-60 verbal/nasty. I'm 40 HIV+ nasty. Let's play! 714145

**Join The Klub! ~~~**

Thanx guys for a wonderful time! Let's do another, adding more to the crowd. We're looking for interesting men who are into having a wonderful time getting nasty and for play. Masculine, buff, toned, well defined, no attitude, and good sense of humor. No judging here! If interested leave name, #, best time to call. Maybe you can join the Klub too. Restrictions do apply. 7141436

**Seeking Asian Top**

Under 40 cute smooth clean shaven for W/Bi curious goodlooking 1st times start orally, end given you bring bottom for your pleasure. 714146

**Oral Massage, Muscle Rub**

Complete oil rub down and oral release (no charge) to muscle boys who want tension relief, small endowment ok. 714147

**"Just Shut Up And Ride!"**

WM 36, 5'10", 195lb blond/blue muscle hunk, wants good looking masculine men to screw me or be screwed, anytime. 714148

**Spread-Eagle**

Ex-wrestler now older at 44 still in decent shape. Tied to your bed for long milking sessions, I'll flex, writhe, sweat in response to efforts of your tongue & hands, turns ons: pecs, tits, hairy pits. Mutual great. 714149

**Hot Horny Hung And Handsome**

I like variety taller short sizeable cocks or horse hung top to bottom mutual oral sex or laid back service. Shaved cocks are fun too! 7141450

**Hairy Hung Uncut**

W. male slim hairy 7ins, uncult 54yr HIV- seeks W male slim HIV who likes to suck uncut cock and hairy ass. 7141451

**GWM Bottom Wanted**

By smart sexy hot & cute GAM top 35, 5'7", 155#, great shape. Like to get rimmed, be slim or beefy. Under 45 with 7" or large. No fats. 7141452

**Hairy Ver Top Man Fuck Buddy**

Gay or Bi WM average size/looking want. Me: GWM 150# 5'8" hairless; mid 40, 7" cut into dick, ball, ass, WS, clothing play & most other interest. 7141453

**ISO Rim Seat Service**

Older hung daddy, solid tight bod small cute ass. Any age but must be extremely talented & insatiable. No beginners, no scat please. Long sessions A+. 7141454

**Expert Cocksucker For 3-Way**

2 overseed party n play seeps, looking for 3rd for weekend pnp sessions. 7141469

**Man To Man**

I wish to have vigorous sex with another man in the early afternoons (best). I like it physically but open to all. Inquire. 7141471

**Cock Worship**

After your gym workout I will service. You kickback, cock and balls sucked. Celebrate and enjoy your masculinity. You be between 20-45 in good health. Call me. 7141472

**Fucking Only**

Black male great body and uncult cock seeks smooth bottom for fucking on Fridays and Saturdays nights. HIV+, no drugs, hardcore, non-verbal, 5'10", 180#, 43. 7141474

**Homeless Sex**

Want some? Market St. regular, hairy chest, hazel eyes & big shoulders, dark red facial hair, smooth small butt. Let's have safe fun, togetherness etc. 7141475

**Boy**

Attractive, intelligent foot lover, 32 seeks naturally masculine/inately dominant men who enjoy devoted sensual attention to their needs. Prefer tall, good-natured dads with large feet. All calls returned. 7141476

**Honest, Sexy, Working GWM**

40. Loves life, self, sex. Sense of humor? Adventure? Casual to committed encounters. 7141477

**2 Uncut Men Masculine**

Blue collar 8 plus looking for big and uncult for serious sex afternoons. 7141470

**"Good Dog!"**

58, lanky, positive, mix breed wants deep throat suck hounds. 9" thick needs long service and nips too. Your place. 7141473

**FETISHES**

**I Need Your Vote To Win Title Of best Bay Area cocksucker!** My compassionate creativity maximizes your (balls) as measured by scientific device that will amaze/delight your dick! 71394

**Just Hurry Up...**

Older (48) but hung Oakland area man needs his dick sucked lightning fast, 3-4 minutes. Late afternoons, late evenings. No beads or goates; moustache a plus. Serious only. 71395

**Bear Needs Birthday Whipping**

Sore butt is a great gift to start a year. Please Help. 71396

**After Work Foot Massage**

Handsome GWM, 35, wants to give you and your feet sensual pleasure. Kick back, relax, and do what comes naturally. 71397

**Pit Buddies Party 2**

All 14 hot men returning plus we'll selectively choose another 6 to join us. So if you're into it & you've got Great pits, be prepared to prove it with a pit shot photo. (Will take photos for you if need be). 71420

**Collectors**

GWM 47yrs- 200lbs, 6'1" looking 4 other men who like to collect. Call and we will exchange tales. Maybe meet? 71421

**Use And Abuse Me Hard N Rough!**

Sub WM 35 5'5" 125 smooth HIV+. Use my mouth and ass mercilessly. WS, TT, CBT, SM, BD, FF, Rim, VA You: Dom, clean, reasonably fit. Too hung for most? 71422

**Virgin Fisting Hole**

Lean, masc, gd-looking 37yr GWM looking for approx. same, and exp. top to carry me over the threshold. Enjoy large toys- ready for the real thing! 71423

**ISO Nipple & CBT Workout Buddies**

Goodlooking GWM 5'9", 185lbs. 50's workout regular w/nice trimmed & shaved crotch. Into nipple play- CBT- mutual oral. ISO guys over 40 into expanding potential NS-ND aroma ok East Bay+. 71424

**Do You Have Huge Nipples?**

That need to be serviced on a reg. basis? GWM, 42 great muscular body, wants to service you. I know how to please, great mouth, you won't be sorry. No b.s. or games. 71437

**Seeking Verbal Abuse**

From dominant, masc. WM 35-55. Me: WM, 38, 5'8", 160lbs, masc lkg. Craves slapping, beatings, humiliation, video, any ideas you want to pursue. Have trainable mouth & rear. Sincere and eager to hear from you. 71438

**Daytime-Asshole-Eater!!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! 71455

**Like A Smooth Chest?**

GWM, 38, smooth, fit and muscular, seeks bondage top. Really into being tied in tight uncomfortable positions and having my tits tortured. Safe and under 40 only please. 71456

**COUPLES****Slender Blonde Smooth Bottom**

Seeking couples with imagination, stamina and aroma- tall muscular studs into daddly scene- coach-uncle. 71425

**The Hottest Guy In Town**

Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Play safe. Wear a condom. 71458

**OTHERS****Mediterranean Man Sks Bi Woman**

Attractive bi WM, 29, 5'11", 157#, honest, generous with good hearted bi or lesbian woman. 71398

**Redheads Rule!**

Seeking masculine, slender redhead (20-42). Let me (BM, 40's, slender) drop in my knees to service you. Your pleasure is my goal. 71399

**The Sexiest Guy In Town**

Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Be safe! 71458

**Bondage & Discipline...**

Is offered to straight married, corporate types by older, polite, experienced gent. Discreet SF apt. Days ok. Call to inquire. 71426

**Workout Partner, Sparring Bud**

5'8", 142# hairy muscled skinned NHB fighter ISO workout partner, sparring buddy. Private gym- weights, bench, heavy bag, ring, more. Let's lift, wrestle, box, fight. Work out nude? 71457

**C Or D Tennis Player Wanted**

By 49y, HIV+ man, for play, 2 or 3 times/wk either AM or PM. 71458

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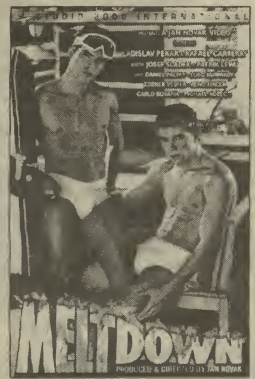
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# Is TV making us sick?

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Summertime, and the livin' is sleazy. Reality TV has become so much a part of the national consciousness that the line between real life and Reality TV life is barely perceptible. The national obsession with all things celebrity — no matter how ephemeral — is trendier than Prada, Cosmos and wheatgrass wraps.

The merest whiff of celebrity is enough to get us salivating. A soupçon of scandal, and we're positively Pavlovian. Take the mysterious case of Rep. Gary Condit (D-CA) and his missing paramour, former political intern Chandra Levy. Levy has been missing since April 30; the last family or friends heard from her was May 1, via e-mail. Some members of her family allege she had some "big news" to share; the allusions have led to speculation she was pregnant at the time of her disappearance.

Meanwhile Condit, married father of two, has been less than forthcoming, until this week when he finally admitted, after repeated denials, that he and Levy had been lovers up to the point she disappeared, that he had indeed given her gifts, and he may have been the last person to see her before she vanished.

The case has been the news and tabloid TV story for the past three weeks, trumping even comedienne Paula Poundstone's arrest for alleged lewd acts on her minor adoptive and foster daughters. And can anyone even remember Robert Blake's murdered wife's name?

If Democrats were conspiracy theorists like Republicans, there would be some loud speculation about the timing of this latest political scandal. But the Levy/Condit case, as well as Poundstone's and

Blake's, beg questions vis à vis TV coverage of evolving news stories.

Levy went missing more than two months ago. But the media blitz — two weeks and counting — coincided with some sleazy dealings by Republicans in Congress and, of course, the White House. Like that scandalous little *quid pro quo* deal between the President and his pals at the Salvation Army to skirt their gay hiring problem — which barely

made a blip on the media Richter scale, overshadowed as it was by *The Case of the Missing Intern*. And not much play has been given to the "new" prescription plan for seniors unveiled by Health and Human Ser-



### Lavender Tube

vices Director Tommy Thompson, which just happens to have been in place for several years. The White House is merely giving it an *imprimatur* and taking credit for it. And nary a sound bite was heard after the campaign finance reform bill proposed by renegade Republican John McCain got nixed by nearly all the other Republicans (the NRA lobbied like this was about the Second, not the First, Amendment).

### Internal focus

No, there's nothing like a 50something Democrat and a 20something intern to get the nation's focus where it most likes to be: peering through someone else's keyhole. Far be it for us to defend Condit — any politician who missed the object lesson of the final two years of the Clinton Administration doesn't deserve to be in politics. *Never lie about your bed partners, you will be found out.* Say, "No comment." Give a Dorothy Parkeresque quip like, "It's none of your fucking business who I'm busy fucking." Decry the lack of personal privacy in America. But do not say never, as in "I never had sex with that



Rep. Gary Condit apparently missed the object lesson of Monicagate.

woman, Ms. Lewinsky." Because then, when caught in the lie as you inevitably will be, you will look like, what else?, a liar.

Based on his own denials and retractions, Condit is a liar. That much is fact. Whether or not he is also a murderer or involved in a conspiracy remains to be seen.

Where is Chandra Levy? When 20something Anne Marie Fahey, scheduling secretary for former Delaware Gov., now Sen. Tom Carper, went missing, her 50something paramour, politician Thomas Capano, repeatedly told her family and friends, and later the police and FBI, that he had no idea what had happened to her. Now he's on death row, and she's at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. We're not saying Levy has met a similarly ghastly fate. But generally speaking, when people go missing, they do not reappear.

The case of the Congressman and the missing intern does, however, raise a slew of questions about privacy, privilege, politics, and, of course, TV. On NBC's *Meet the Press* last Sunday, veteran political columnist David Broder of the *Washington Post*, while not in any way defending Condit, queried the media obsession with the Levy/Condit case. Broder also mused on why none of the other missing persons in the US (at least half of whom, we would like to point out, are, unlike Levy, poor; and at least 30 percent of whom are, unlike Levy, of color) get any media attention whatsoever.

It's a reasonable question, though the answer seems sadly obvious. The poor are never news. Levy is a pretty and privileged girl from a wealthy family. Her parents made her disappearance news. They flew to Washington. They held a press conference. They badgered police. They posted thousands of fliers with her photo on it. They demanded attention for their missing daughter. They called TV reporters and gave interviews in which they repeatedly queried Condit's involvement in their daughter's disappearance and alluded to something darker.

There are several hundred other young girls and women currently reported missing in Washington, DC. We don't know their names. They aren't celebrities. We won't see them on TV. If these other girls and women aren't news, should Chandra Levy be? If politics and celebrity weren't at the heart of this case, would it be news?

When Robert Blake's wife was murdered, it headlined the national news and the tabloid TV shows. It was news because Blake is a movie star. Wives are murdered every day in America; some

make the local news, many do not.

When Paula Poundstone was arrested for allegedly performing lewd acts on her daughters, it was headline news. Some networks even ran a crawl under regular programming. Children are sexually abused every day in America. Few of those crimes make headlines. What part has Poundstone's celebrity played in her case?

### Stabs at fame

The confluence of media obsession and celebrity certainly isn't new, but it has escalated in recent years, reaching a sleazy apex with the trial of OJ Simpson, death of Princess Diana, and affair between Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. Reality TV has taught us that people will do anything — marry someone they never met, eat live insects, defecate on camera, reveal devastating secrets — for a chance at celebrity.

TV has also taught us that there is no such thing as real privacy in America, particularly if you are a celebrity, as Condit's politician status makes him and Levy's association with him makes her. The average Jane and Joe on the street now knows as much about the lives of these two people as their close friends and family do.

But is that right? Is it right that wealth and privilege have allowed Levy's parents to accuse Condit of involvement in her disappearance on national TV? Is it right that Condit is now presumed to be a murderer by many because he lied about an extramarital affair? Are gossip and innuendo the same as news, the same as fact?

Real life isn't Reality TV. It isn't the edited version of folks eating rats convivially while they plot each other's demise. Real life is nuanced and dark, but often quite mundane.

Chandra Levy's disappearance is disturbing, for her friends and family. But at the risk of sounding callous, it isn't more or less news than any other missing person in America. It's a personal tragedy, not a national one. It isn't your tragedy, or your neighbor's, or the kid down the block's. It's the Levys' tragedy. TV brought it to us, but it doesn't make it ours. Not in real life, only in Reality TV life.

It is to be hoped Levy will be found alive and well. It is to be hoped Condit isn't implicated in Levy's disappearance. But even if he isn't, no one will ever believe otherwise. He might as well be OJ Simpson or the Ramseys. He has already been convicted on TV, and in America, TV deifies and destroys. What happens off camera is merely real life. Hardly news. ▼

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# Small-town surprises

by Tavo Amador

The fourth and best-plotted Mark Manning mystery by Michael Craft, *Boy Toy* (St. Martin's, \$23.95), once again takes place in Dumont, Wisconsin. This time, the action is set in the world of small-town theatre. Mark's cousin and ward, Thad Quatrain, is appearing as the second lead in a locally written play having its premiere in town. The play is good, and so are the performers. However, the lead, another teenager, Jason Thrush, taunts Thad with a homophobic reference to his being a "boy toy" for Mark and his partner, Neil Waite. When Jason is found dead and Thad takes over for him in the play's star role, giving a terrific performance, Mark fears that his ward will be charged with the killing.

Other cast members may have had reasons of their own to want Jason out of the way. The handsome, obnoxious murder victim came from a prominent but unappealing family having financial difficulties. His father and sister are both unpleasant and greedy. Each has much to gain from Jason's death.

Also, Jason's ex-girlfriend may be harboring resentment over his dumping her. The owner of the town's best restaurant has her own history with the Thrush family in general, and with Jason in particular. The presumably gay playwright may have been in love with his leading man.

In the course of investigating possible motives, Mark unearths these and other disturbing secrets hidden behind the neat houses and quiet streets of Dumont. Being the publisher of the town's only newspaper, *The Dumont Register*, gives Mark an entree for involving himself in the crime. So does his friendship with sheriff Doug Pierce, who, in the previous book, revealed that he, too, is gay. Mushrooms, poisonous and safe, are critical to the story, and the information about them is presented smoothly.

## Well-reared

As the book opens, we learn that Neil has relocated his architectural practice from Chicago to Dumont and is busy with several local assignments, including a sen-



sational sauna/retreat for a local married couple. This allows him a greater role in the mystery. He and Mark have done a good job in rearing Thad, who has turned out to be a pleasant and loving young man. He's also straight, and proud of his adoptive parents.

This is a classic puzzle mystery, but one with a double twist. Even if you think you've guessed who the killer is, as I did, you likely will be surprised by the final revelation of the actual murderer. Craft plays fair, giving the reader ample clues, yet still fools you. Although the possible murder motives Mark attributes to some of the suspects seem unlikely, when the true killer is exposed, the motivations are believable. It's not easy building a mystery around just one murder, but Craft does so in an exemplary fashion.

*Boy Toy* is more than a good mystery; it's also an unsentimental look at small-town life and how gay people can thrive in what many perceive, with good reason, to be an oppressive atmosphere. The author tackles some issues that may make readers, gay and straight, feel uncomfortable, but that benefit from frank discussion and analysis. He puts things in perspective and demolishes homophobic myths in the process. As has been a constant theme in the Mark Manning stories, Craft shows how dangerous closets are, and the terrible price people pay for living in them. Tying all these elements together in an entertaining novel that challenges the reader's deductive reasoning skills makes this the finest entry yet in a distinguished series. ▼

## Galleries

◀ page 33

ized waterfall that "flows" like a Coors ad, accompanied by a subtle soundtrack of rushing water which emanates from glowing "rocks" on the floor. The obvious white electrical cords from the rocks to the image completely shatter the illusion of "nature" in a gallery context; its synthesized nature is just the point.

Legos figure large in the 3-D landscapes of Melissa and Kelly Pokorny ("Flora") as well as a moonscape by Paul DeMarinis. In the Pokornys' work, the most artificial train set imaginable features foam rubber mountains and jiggly fabric fingers begging for attention. DeMarinis' "Moondust Memories" is more somber: a darkened lunar terrain in which Lego bumper cars leave a subtle trail of light on the ground as they

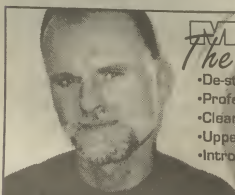
collide silently, interrupted only by a giggly, underwater soundtrack and the occasional flash of light.

The most truly disturbing piece in *LifeLike* is John Slepian's "Incommunicate," a set of video monitors that face each other at an oblique angle, allowing the visitor to overhear their creepy conversation. Two fleshy beings mouth unintelligible sounds back and forth through puckered lips (or are they rectums?). They puff, smooch and goo-goo at each other, first one, and then the other. Beyond pornographic, and reminiscent of David Lynch's *Eraserhead*, only penetration is missing.

Scott Snibbe, who comes out of experimental animation at RISD and computer science at Brown, presents a clever, one-joke sculpture. "Mirror" is a vintage fan that is activated by the viewer's breath: you blow it, and it blows you. Through July 28. ▼

# BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

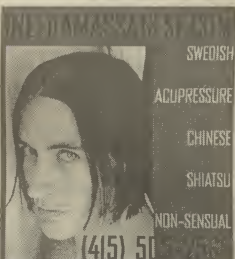
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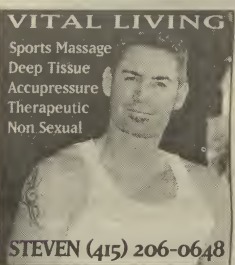
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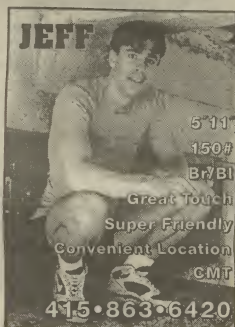
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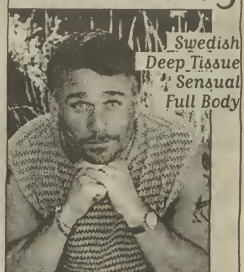
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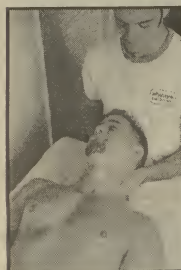
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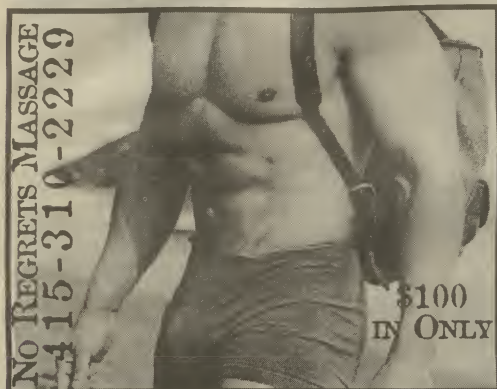
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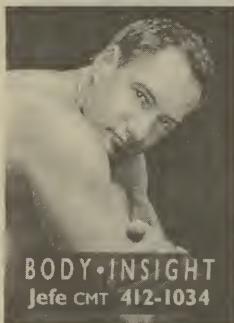


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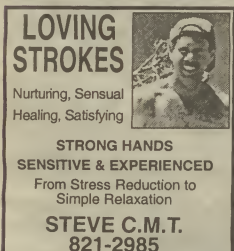


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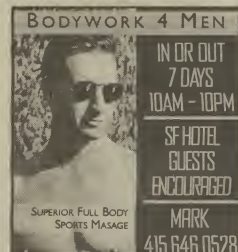
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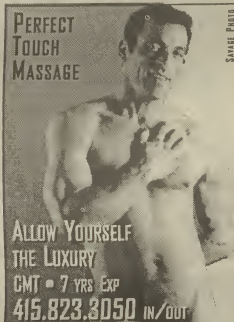
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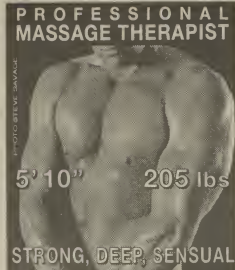
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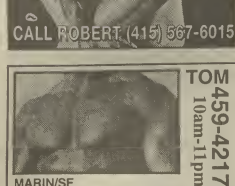
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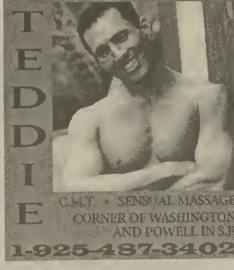
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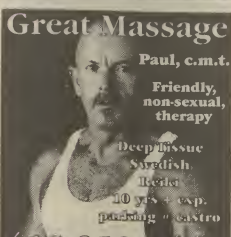
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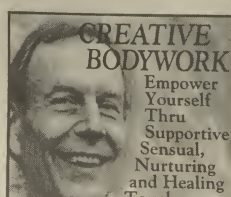
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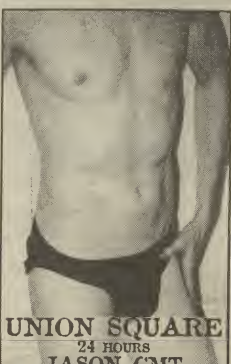
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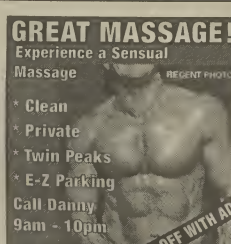
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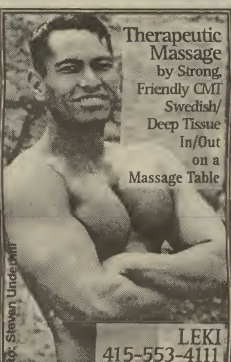
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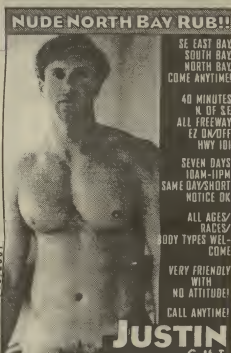
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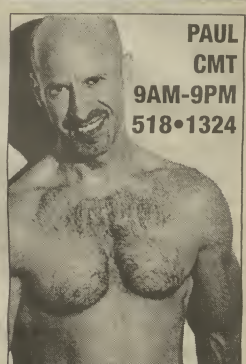
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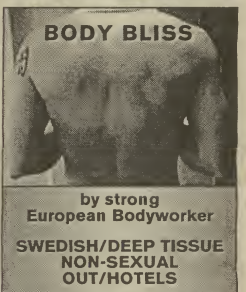
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and play 6'2", blue eyes bld hr all  
calls answered on my cell 24/7.  
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### 18YO CUTE BOY

Slim smooth Latin 5'6" 125#  
versatile all areas in/out  
Joey 707 696 2650 24 hours

### "MEN'S FITNESS" MODEL

8yrs w/ Click-NY model agency.  
Appeared in numerous tv commls:  
Gillette, Coors, Citibank, ClubMed  
mag. work w/ "Men's Fitness",  
"Men's Health", "Bicycling", "Men's  
Journal." Stats: 6'3", 200lbs, blind,  
smooth v. musc./athl. 36yrs. v.hung  
(9.5x7). Prefer top.  
Open. Fun. 24hrs.  
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27yo Latin top uncut safe  
8' 5'6" 135# \$100 Franc pg 251 2723

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By good lking, blind/bl, 6' swimmer.  
Friendly, sexy, tender to raunchy  
100 in/more out. Ez freeway & park  
Brad (510) 418-0974 (in Berkeley)

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Masline bottom to serve you  
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Live the fantasy. Lean, hard,  
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Berliner Bratwurst  
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SM/BD/TT/WS/FF humiliation  
**PAGE JACK 219-5608**

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28yo/o top 6'3" dark skin goatee  
180# swimmer body. 7.5" cut speaks  
French, Italian, Spanish call me  
Lorenzo 415-378-5049

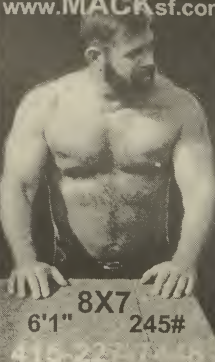
**HOT HAWAIIAN FILIPINO**  
29, smooth & muscular for massage.  
Alan @ (415) 221-3891

**Oh Daddy!**  
**10.5 x 7.5**



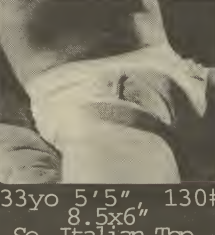
6'3"  
190  
48  
www.sfhungdad.com  
VM/PGR  
(415) 224-9382

**www.MACKsf.com**



6'1" 8X7  
245#

**"MEN'S FITNESS" MODEL**  
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mag. work w/ "Men's Fitness",  
"Men's Health", "Bicycling", "Men's  
Journal." Stats: 6'3", 200lbs, blind,  
smooth v. musc./athl. 36yrs. v.hung  
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Open. Fun. 24hrs.  
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33yo 5'5" 130#  
8.5x6"  
So. Italian Top -

**LEATHER/SM/FANTASY**  
40yo top 6'1", 195# 7"uncut, flat-  
top. Gd lking into bondage, s/m, w/s,  
f/f, cbt, violet wand, toys boots. Be-  
ginners? Have playspace & equip.  
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27yo 5'9" 145# muscular. Versatile  
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Masculine, passionate 540 8593

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you want pay if I don't do what  
I say. Out only  
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Boishy, smooth, sweet English lad  
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kiss - kink pg Alex 790 3773, Out

Butt massage w/toys full body  
pleasure by boyish C.M.T 596-3377

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Sweet, super-hairy bear. 339-7465

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Masculine, goodlooking oral top  
28 hung, big balls, buzzcut, go-t  
Clint\* 540-5311\* in/out anytime

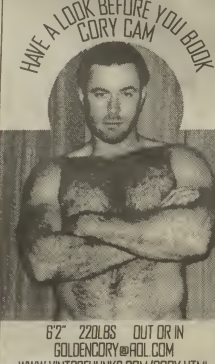
### 23 YO VERS. TOP

**EXOTIC DANCER/ESCORT**  
**HOLLYWOOD LOOKS 7.5C**  
24/7 Outcalls call me 415 722 4177



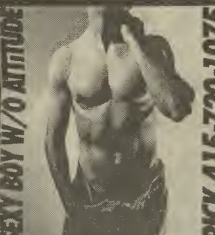
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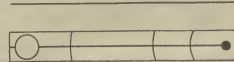
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7 x 7 and balls that measure 11  
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very friendly, boy next door looks  
(9x6). In/out. 1-310-497-3314

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**23YO HUNG ADONIS**  
10"x5" cut 6'x165# hot blk stud!  
No attitude, loves to get down  
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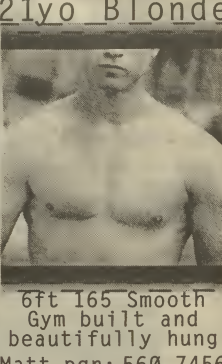


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BOSTON STUD**



9" fatcut  
Brown Hair  
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Versatile Top  
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27yr  
**\$200**  
**708-1579 PGR**  
Memorable • Discrete • Unhurried Service

**21yo Blonde**



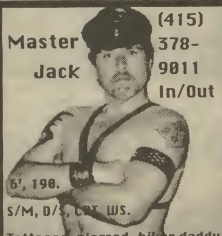
6ft 165 Smooth  
Gym built and  
beautifully hung  
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DISCRETE ESCORT**  
IN SAN FRANCISCO



5'11"  
215  
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6' 190.  
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smooth muscular  
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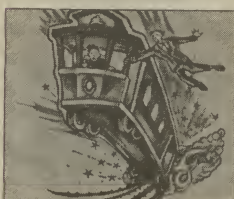
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For more info, email HatchetQ@aol.  
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is Sat., Sep. 29th in SF. Open to all  
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Congratulations to:  
**MR EDGE LEATHER ERIC**  
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raised. Bravo! Keep up the good work

Latin, European & White suck/fuck  
buddy (25-55) with big thick-uncut  
dick wanted by GWM, 40, 6', 190#, 8"  
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Great head 415-826-6858 \* Castro

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Looking for a good butt exam.  
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Saturday, July 28th, 174 KING ST  
Tickets on sale at Daddy's Bar and  
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To be competitive today an advertiser  
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E 18

Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys  
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E 39

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E 29

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Payment must accompany ad.

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Display advertising rates

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☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express

Minimum \$10 charge.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

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Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

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395 Ninth Street  
SF, CA 94103  
**OR FAX TO:**  
415.861.8144  
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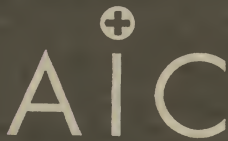
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